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[THREEPENCE.]

To the Public.

EVERY monarch has his laureate—every hero his historiographer. How poor would be the pageants of the one, how circumscribed the glory of the other, but for the inspiring song and the commemorating story! So it was felt in those rudest ages when height of stature and strength of limb were the primal qualifications for kingship, and the heroic "might of weakness" was unknown. As the reign of violence gave place to that of cunning, the gift of the bard and the chronicler became more and more honoured; till now, in the days of an almost universal ability to read, and an unparalleled facility of literary communication, every incident above the level of the most ordinary occurrences, every character at all eminent for force or beauty, is illustrated and popularized, and struggles to become perpetuated, by means of the artist's or the author's power.

Victoria has her Tennyson—the Houses of Parliament have a *corps* of contemporary historians—every institution in the realm has its representatives in that fourth estate, the press. Why should the People's Palace be an exception to this modern form of a world-old rule? It was felt, long before the completion of the novel structure so entitled, that such an exception would be impossible—that besides the special efforts made by the general press of the country to meet such an unique demand upon its powers, a particular illustration and record of the Great Exhibition should be attempted. The *Illustrated Expositor*, and similar journals, were the result of that very obvious necessity. They passed away with the occasion that gave them birth, or lingered not long after. The Crystal Palace again approaches completion—a more perfect and permanent form is about to be given to the Exhibition of the Industry of all Nations—and up to the moment of this writing, no special chronicle of its progress and exponent of its treasures is in existence.

That vacant office the ILLUSTRATED CRYSTAL PALACE GAZETTE aspires to fill. The endeavour is not an unambitious one—but neither is it made without the resources and resolutions that may de-

serve, if not command, success. We, its conductors, have surveyed the whole field on which we enter, and calculated our ability to occupy it. We have a lofty notion of the capabilities—the recreative, educational, and moral capabilities—of the Sydenham Crystal Palace. We do not reckon it merely a spectacle or playground—an English Versailles or upper Vauxhall, an Alhambra of pleasure, an Elysium of sensuous delights; though in this point of view, it will undoubtedly surpass all precedent, overmatch all rivalry, and mark a new epoch in the pregnant history of popular amusements. We look upon the translucent and long-drawn arches, the high-leaping fountains, the wide-spread and beautiful parterres, that will shortly draw admiring thousands to Sydenham, as only the first and lowest of the class of facts that should attract thither the glance of thoughtful and philanthropic men. We regard these as but the flowery approaches to a school of philosophy, science, and art—a temple of the virtues and graces. We anticipate, from the universal interpretation of the universal experience, that the bringing together under one roof of all "representative" objects—specimens of whatsoever nature produces or man can fabricate—a means of instruction such as no other age or country has ever enjoyed; the concentration, for the rich, of all the advantages and pleasures which museums and galleries can afford; the presentation of those concentrated advantages and pleasures to the poor equally with the rich. And lastly—we believe that to place within the reach of all classes of this densely peopled land, a source of recreation and instruction such as this, must tend in the nature of things, and may be relied upon under the blessing of Providence, to morally elevate and bless the whole community—helping, powerfully, to imbue the frivolous with a sense of human dignity, to touch some spring of tenderness in the rudest, to win the sensual to an appreciation of nobler than sensual pleasures, to cheer with at least transient gleams the lot of hard and ill-requited toil, to draw out the latent sympathies of class with class; in short, to aid in unnumbered ways the promotion of personal, domestic, and social good.

In conformity with these views will be our con-

duct of this magazine. It is our primary purpose to *chronicle* the progress of the Palace and the Exhibition; and as the latter is designed to be an ever-growing, ever-perfecting institution, this portion of our task will be of indefinite duration. We shall endeavour next to analyze and illustrate their contents. In this almost boundless field we shall be assisted by artists and writers of high competence; sparing no pains nor expense to present to the mind's eye of the reader, the choicest specimens of what will meet his bodily optics as he walks the nave, galleries, groves, and gardens of the Palace. The contents of our present number may serve as an earnest of what is intended in this respect; and we may mention as further indicative thereof, that the several eras of architecture—as illustrated by the Egyptian, Assyrian, Mediæval, and other "courts"—will be treated of in successive articles. To science, whether in the necessary explanation of its principles, or merely of their application, large space will be given. Especially will such of the arts as bear on our daily and common life, to adorn and fructify it—the improvement of our dwellings, the mitigation of our natural calamities, and so forth—be kept before our readers. Questions of public interest, moreover,—in their bearing upon the above-named characteristics of our central subject,—will be regarded as not foreign to our pages.

In conclusion we may say—Having, of course, none other connexion with the Crystal Palace than any of our readers may have; asking of the Company nothing but such facilities for the prosecution of our design as are commonly awarded—we are free to criticise as well as to report. We expect, like them, to succeed but according to our merits; yet hope, with them,

"To swell the triumph and pursue the gale."

IRELAND'S ANNUS MIRABILIS.

EIGHTEEN FIFTY-ONE was a year of universal interest—a new epoch in the history of all countries, for it was the year of the Exhibition of the Industry of ALL Nations. It was an event of which it might be said, as was said by Burke of



the French revolution, "it is without precedent," but not with Burke's inference, "and, therefore, without portent." Though the world had never before seen its like, every one was sure that its like would often be seen in future. It resembled, at least, in one particular, that of which Milton tells us, all who beheld admired,—admiring, applauded the author—and wondered it had been left to him to originate. The design was grand in its simplicity, and that simplicity guaranteed its repetition on a larger or lesser scale.

Already prediction is verified, anticipation realized. Ireland and America hold simultaneously their national exhibitions, inviting the aid and rivalry of foreign peoples. France is preparing to follow the example of England and her sister peoples. Our information of the New York Exhibition is not yet full enough to enable us to lay before our readers an adequate representation of its merits. Of the contents of the Dublin Crystal Palace, however, and of the structure itself, we have now almost a complete knowledge, of which we shall put our readers in possession next month. For the present, let us be content to contemplate the spectacle of Queen Victoria, with her illustrious husband in her Irish Crystal Palace, and at the residence of William Dargan, her suddenly ennobled Irish subject.

It has been a cause of much dissatisfaction to the Irish people that their capital is not honoured by the periodical presence of the Sovereign. The reign of Queen Victoria promises to dissipate the grievance. Twice has she presented herself to her Celtic subjects; and has, on this latter occasion, received from her visit a kind and degree of pleasure that is the best assurance of its repetition. Her Majesty was not only entertained, but interested. All the sympathies of her intelligent mind and her patriotic heart were drawn forth by the sight of a people struggling manfully to break the chain of ages, and overtake competitors that had far distanced them in the race of civilization. In the abounding evidences of national intellect, ingenuity, energy, and taste that greeted her in every step of the Royal procession through the Dublin Crystal Palace, and were disclosed to her more scrutinizing gaze in her daily private visits, the Queen must have felt proud of that third portion of her citizen subjects who are divided from us but by a narrow strait; and must have formed in her soul the resolution expressed in her reply to the address of the committee—to aid to the best of her power in the development of their hitherto buried talents.

We have spoken of Mr. Dargan as "suddenly ennobled." We should rather have said, "made suddenly illustrious." The creator of the Irish Industrial and Artistic Exhibition—the man who, having risen from the ranks of labour, dispenses princely wealth with more than princely munificence and sagacity—owes his nobility to no one occasion, no lucky accident, no one turn of the wheel of fortune, not even to any one master-stroke of power. The nobility must be in him—circumstances only the pedestal for its display. The staple of Mr. Dargan's character must have been fabricated before ever the foundation of his renown was laid. By successive strokes of the mallet, they were doubtless builded up together. The act of generous confidence in his fellow-countrymen by which he has made them and their posterity his debtors is, as the coronet to the brow of native power—the title of knight to the man of renowned valour. The modesty which avoided public recognition at a royal pageant, and the self-respect that declined a titular adornment, were

appropriately recognised by the graceful and courteous visit made to Mount Anneville by the Queen and Prince. It was natural even to so self-contained a man as William Dargan must be, to say, "This is the proudest moment of my life!" But we trust he will live to behold a period in which he shall be prouder, happier yet—that, namely, in which Ireland shall show she has many sons like unto to him; that she has trained her young men to follow his example; and that her daughters have reason to bless his name.

GEOLOGY AS EXHIBITED IN THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

Of all the works of literature, we are generally most delighted with the pictures of past ages painted upon the historic page; and that pleasure is enhanced in proportion to our confidence in their truthfulness. Works of fiction having an historical basis, are more sought after than works of fiction that have no such foundation. Indeed, many who do not approve generally of light reading, will so far overcome their scruples as to peruse and even recommend compositions of that character. So inspired are we all with desire for the knowledge of the events that have transpired in remote time or distance! Some histories, nevertheless, are not to be read in books. Of this class is the history of this world before it became a fit habitation for man.

The remains of animals long since extinct, of vegetables and plants having now no prototype, have been excavated from time to time during the last half century from beneath the earth's surface, and treasured up by painstaking, determined, energetic, intellectual men, designated palæontologists, who have, by induction, arrived at definite results or truths concerning this world's history when "as yet there was no man."

Rocks of the most primitive antiquity, called Plutonic rocks, have scarcely ever been found to have imbedded in them anything that ever had a life of motion. These rocks are supposed to have been originally furnaces of molten lava, which crystallized as it cooled, at the time, we presume, when, as Scripture says, "the earth was without form and void;" and as Ovid, the old Roman poet, sings, "One face of nature was on the whole orb, chaos; a rough and unformed mass, a sluggish weight; discordant seeds of everything mixed together in the same place" . . . "Its own form was not retained by anything; for all opposed each other, because that which was of a nature cold did fight with heat, moist with dry, soft with hard, ponderable bodies with imponderable." In modern times, we have the additional testimony of boiling water, or thermal springs, appearing at a certain depth from Artesian wells, and by volcanoes, or fire-breathing mountains, that we are, at this present period, but a few miles removed from seas of liquid fire.

This primitive era passed away under the whirlwind and the storm. An almighty decree changed the rude and inert mass to this rounded and pregnant earth. An attempt at the representation of the various conjectured steps in this great transition, is in progress at the Crystal Palace—an undertaking which obviously involves all the resources of art and nature, the deepest research by philosophic students into Nature's hidden truths, the most modern acquisition of information in comparative anatomy, chemistry, and mineralogy, as well as geology.

The ground adjoining the new road from the Rock Hills, Sydenham, to Penge, in which the Artesian well and engine-houses are also placed, is the site now being prepared, in hollow basins, mounds, and upheaved tumuli, for the representatives of the antediluvian world; including,

Monsters inhabiting the land;
 Monsters of the vasty deep; and
 Gigantic amphibious monsters of the old creation;

whose osseous and other remains mark, more indelibly than any book, the secondary fossiliferous era, as well as the tertiary epoch; the climate appertaining to one period of time being annihilation to the inhabitants of another period; and each inhabited by the living creatures to which it was adapted.

"Yet these giant forms tremendous,
 Creatures wondrous, wild, stupendous:
 Hinge,—that fancy cannot frame them;
 Wild,—that language may not name them;
 Differing from a world like this,
 Each and all were framed for bliss;
 Form'd to share, without alloy,
 Each its element of joy.
 By that power that rules to bless,
 All were made for happiness!"

A definite account of the amphibia, gigantic saurians, tapirs, and megatheriums, which are now being prepared in the geological department, scarcely less for the astonishment than for the instruction of beholders, will appear in future papers. A slight sketch of the scene as it appeared to the mind's eye of the originator of this extraordinary conception, and the effect produced upon the visitors to it, is all that is now attempted; and that in the hope that it will arouse curiosity to look upon a scene in which wonder itself becomes bewildered, knowing not at what most to be amazed, where all is wonder and astonishment.

Fancy yourselves, then, surrounded by something apparently totally unnatural, yet which once was Nature—rocks, strata, herbage, trees—altogether unearthly, and the creatures native there more unearthly still. Were it not for the cerulean sky over your heads, you might almost be inclined to cry out with Hela,—

"Farewell to the mountain and sun-lighted vale,
 The moss-bordered streamlet and balm-breathing gale."

Rocks of igneous origin, aqueous or stratified rocks, metamorphic rocks crystallized by heat, as well as those of basalt and porphyry, astonish and perplex the senses; no stunted ferns of modern growth, but fern trees with outspread branches, rising 40 and 50 feet; from the rocks, mosses, grasses, palms; altogether unique, whereon man ne'er looked, but teeming with living creatures terrifically anomalous to us, perfectly fitted to them.

Mark yon Sloth or Megatherium! Contemplate his enormous size; limbs like columns; a huge body cased in scaly armour. A moderate-sized tree would be scarcely a meal for him. Now watch that Plesiosaurus, which unites in one, various distinct modern animals—a wondrous combination of beast and fish, of bird and lizard! Behold! how majestic he looks, with arched and swanlike neck, as if about to glide over the unruffled waters. Then observe the gigantic Megalosaurus, in coat of mail, with huge teeth, or enormous saw-like projections, bristling along his back. See the colossal Iguanodon, with a like appendage of spinal apparatus, apparently feeding upon the mosses around him—a mighty whale on land, measuring from 80 to 100 feet in length, and breadth in proportion! We should be inclined to imagine that he was the undisputed monarch of that age—the greatest amongst the great.

Shell-fish, now extinct; stone lilies, fixed to the rocks like tulips on their stems; the trilobite, a crab-like creature, with prominent eyes; and numberless other strange non-descript inhabitants of the rocks and the watery deep, you must next glance at.

Other periods are now before us—the earliest, or Eocene period, the middle or Miocene period, and the later or Pliocene

SYDENHAM CHURCH.



period. Many thousands of years have elapsed. These monstrous reptiles have now degenerated or disappeared; and mammalia, scarcely less anomalous, yet still more nearly approximating to the forms now in existence, usurp their places. Fossil forests, of a species which form a link between the coniferous trees and the ferns and palms of woody structure, yet so silicified as to strike fire with steel; fungi, weeds, and plants, together with zoophytes, crustaceae, shells, amongst which the inoceramum, scaphite, hamite, and turritite, it may be imagined, will be prominent; mammalia, birds, and reptiles; the iguana, monitor, crocodile, and turtle, in abundance; the ammonite and the nautilus. The nautilus still exists, and its singular structure navigates the oceans of the tropics; but the ammonite, which once floated on the surface of the waters, alternately sinking or rising, is no longer seen.

"The Nautilus and the Ammonite
Were launched in this strife;
Each sent to float in its tiny boat
On the wide wild sea of life.

"For each could swim on the ocean's brim,
And when wearied its sails could fur!;
And sink to sleep in the great sea deep,
In its palace all of pearl.

"And hand in hand, from strand to strand,
They sailed in mirth and glee;
These fairy shells, with their crystal cells,
Twin creatures of the sea.

"And they came at last to a sea long past,
But as they reached its shore,
The Almighty's breath spoke out in death,
And the Ammonite lived no more."

Let us now digress for a moment to observe our visitors, viewing these representations of what once had being. Wonder, mixed with awe, seems their pervading sentiment. Another group are incredulous, and treat it as an Oriental fiction, or as a modern delusion, akin to spirit-rapping. A few are loud in their satire and ridicule; but find no echo. Let us individualize their different idiosyncrasies. One man is a believer in the metempsychosian doctrine. Mark the twinkling eye, the compressed lips: he is contemplating that immense saurian swallowing a gigantic toad, which he fancies once to have been his greatest enemy on earth, and whose departed spirit has migrated into that horrid creature! Another is a philosophic moralizer, and exclaims, "Never till now have I felt the literal force of Shakespeare's adage, 'Sermons in stones.'" A third is a poet, whose eye takes in mountains with glacial peaks peeping through rolling clouds; the setting sun tinging the vault of heaven with gorgeous, golden colours, intermingled with ever-flitting, fanciful shapes of crimson hue, reflecting their refulgence on the jutting rocks; the waters, glittering in sparkling brilliancy; Nature's evening jewellery contrasting with the deep purple shadows on the broad flood and massive rocks—"islands on a dark blue sea."

A PARTY AT THE PEOPLE'S PALACE.

To the Editor of the Illustrated Crystal Palace Gazette.

SIR,—During my wanderings in Scotland, Ireland, and on the continent, the Sydenham Crystal Palace has been frequently the subject of conversation, and hearing so many opinions and prophecies, eulogisms and deprecations, concerning it, all coloured so diversely, that thither I determined to go and judge for myself, or, at least, form conclusions from the reiterated judgments of others. So now, after having been located in that vicinity, and domiciled just to my taste in a cottage situated in its own grounds—all the rooms on the ground floor; at the back of the house, a picturesque hill, rising considerably above it, and nearly perpendicular, large clumps of furze skirting the top, and interspersed with

wild flowers, brambles in abundance climbing up the sides and over uneven projections; lawn, flower-garden, and fruit-trees in front, thoroughly reconciling me to it as a resting-place for a short period, wanderer though I be.

The Palace and grounds have been visited by me continually for the last two months; and whenever I have observed an individual of peculiar characteristics enter the building, my curiosity has been gratified by joining him, and learning his opinion, as well as, also, from other visitors, as opportunity offered. You may be sure, sir, that I have, in this "labour of love," collected some "facts," and as your paper purports to be published expressly to describe its "wonders, resources, and delights," these facts never having yet been made public, it appeared to me that their relation would be agreeable to some of your readers, and, perhaps, help to convince those who are sceptical as to the extent of its wonders, &c.

One of the facts thus gathered, is this, that every one has been delighted with what they have seen. That no written history ever gave them so comprehensive an insight into the peculiarities of the nations of the earth as even one comparatively cursory glance at the various "courts" of this Palace had done; and this is the unanimous opinion. All agree that it is now "wonderful," and have no doubt that when completed it will be "marvellous."

Parties of from half a dozen to twenty each visit the palace and works daily, and all have been highly gratified. Twenty pounds, I have been told, has been received from visitors in one day.

The first individual whom I joined, and who, by his dress and appearance, seemed to be a curate, having asked the price of admission, and being informed that it was five shillings, said he could not afford so much; but after pacing thoughtfully backwards and forwards outside the Palace for about an hour, he returned to the entrance-gate, and paid the five shillings for admission. After four hours' examination of the works, this gentleman declared that he would not have missed the sight had it been the last five shillings he possessed in the world, for it had infinitely surpassed all his expectations. Another individual was an American—name and address, William L. Smith, Four Fields, Connecticut, U.S. He was a short, wiry, middle-aged man, with faded umbrella and unbrushed coat, and judging by his appearance, you would fancy scarcely worth five shillings; but there was that about him which convinced me he was "wide awake," and of the "go-ahead" school. I was, therefore, well pleased to listen to his ideas, expressed in American phraseology and with rich Yankee humour, mingled with, what appeared to me, discriminative judgment and good sense. The vast length, breadth, and height of the building—yet everything so light, delicate, and fairlike, for such an immense area, perfectly astounded him, and

he exclaimed, "I guess the Britisher beats Jonathan anyhow this time. When I return, I calculate our New York Crystal Palace will make me darned dissatisfied." When this is opened, it's "as sartin as preaching" that the Americans will flock over in shoals, and return expressing their astonishment and delight, without any of that droll exaggeration which has been for some time in vogue across the Atlantic. The spiral staircase had evidently quite "spiralized" him. The diminishing of the galleries in the distance, like dissolving views, were a perfect botheration to him, and the view of the surrounding country seemed so peaceful that it excited his imagination to gambol away from terraqueous scenes to spirit land; whilst the cheerfulness of the prospect uplifted his thoughts to realms of immortal freshness and beauty; nor was it until he came amongst the statues and figures that they returned to their native sphere.

The various "courts," especially the Egyptian, vastly amused him. We then crossed the grounds, and went to see the antediluvian monsters. The model of an elk with natural antlers he artistically criticised, and after admiring it much, said it had but one fault—it did not actually breathe. On observing on the tablet the name of Hawkins, another of God's scintillating stars of genius, he exclaimed, "Truly, with so much intellect, and talent, and skill, the 'People's Palace' at Sydenham must become the wonder and admiration of the world."

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

A SOJOURNER.

Rock Hills, September, 1853.

FRAUD UNDER PRETENCE OF ASSISTING THE CRYSTAL PALACE SUFFERERS.—A few days since, R. Gilgrove, a young man of gentlemanlike appearance, was placed at the bar before Mr. D'Eyncourt, charged with having obtained various sums of money, under the pretence that he was authorized to collect subscriptions for the benefit of the sufferers from the late serious accident at the Crystal Palace, at Sydenham.—Mr. James Slater, a clothier, in the City-road, stated that in the afternoon of Monday last, the prisoner entered his shop and handed him a written paper, in the form of a petition, which contained an urgent appeal to the sympathies of the public on behalf of the widows and orphans of the men who had lost their lives through the recent accident at the Crystal Palace. At the time he presented the petition the prisoner introduced himself as a medical student, attached to St. Bartholomew's hospital, and stated that he was acting under the direct sanction of the authorities of that institution, by whom he had been deputed, together with seven of his colleagues, to solicit subscriptions in different parts of the Metropolis for the relief of the unfortunate sufferers. On reading the paper, which purported to be prepared and signed by "S. E. Miller," who was described as governor and treasurer of St. Bartholomew's hospital, witness presented him with a small donation, to which his foreman also added a subscription, and the prisoner left the shop, after writing down their names at the bottom a lengthened list of signatures, which were appended to the document.—Mr. Thomas Hall, a naturalist in the City-road, stated that on Monday evening the prisoner called at his place of business, and produced a letter to the same purport as had been referred to by the last witness, but which bore the signature of Doctor Thompson, M.D., St. Bartholomew's hospital. After perusing the letter, the faulty construction and orthographical errors in which rendered it perfectly manifest that it could not have been written by an educated person, witness intimated to the prisoner that he believed him to be an impostor, and that the document was a pure fabrication. The prisoner indignantly repelled the accusation, declaring that he was a student connected with the hospital, and that he was in a condition to refer him to numerous distinguished professional gentlemen, who would satisfy him as to his respectability; and amongst others mentioned the name of Dr. Godfrey, of Eaton-street, Eaton-square, whom he described as his private tutor. Witness, however, suggested that, instead of troubling any of these gentlemen, they had better proceed together to the hospital, where he would be able to St. Bartholomew's hospital, and that he was a genuine document, but the prisoner declined to adopt that course, and hastily quitted the place. Mr. John Roberts, tobacco manufacturer in the Whitechapel-road, gave similar evidence, and it was proved that two documents found upon the prisoner were fabrications, and that he was not at all known at the hospital.—The prisoner declined offering any defence, and was remanded for a week.

SYDENHAM AND ITS WANT OF DRAINAGE.

To the Editor of the Illustrated Crystal Palace Gazette.

SIR,—The great amount of discussion which this subject has evolved during the last twelve months, and the attention which has been directed towards it by the inhabitants of Sydenham, renders any apology for again bringing it under their notice unnecessary.

My object in writing is to review the past, and explain the plans laid down for the future.

On the 4th September, 1848, an act of the 11th and 12th Vict. was passed, entitled, "An Act to consolidate and continue in force for two years and to the end of the then next session of Parliament the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers," under and by virtue of which the Commissioners of Sewers formed a district called the "Ravensbourne," and in this district Sydenham was included.

About the month of June, 1849, operations were commenced here. It was understood that a plan of drainage had been agreed on, the Poole river being taken as the outlet. This river, it will be remembered, runs into the Ravensbourne. Now the Kent Waterworks Company draw large supplies from the latter river, and when the intentions of the Commissioners became known, they remonstrated against the pollutions of the water. The matter, after some correspondence, was accommodated by the company paying the Commissioners a sum of £5,000, the latter gentlemen entering into a bond not to drain into the Poole. This was all very well; but, surely, if the Commissioners sell one outlet they ought to provide another. They, however, did no such thing, and actually proceeded to lay down drain-pipes in one or two of the leading thoroughfares, though they knew that no outlet existed.

At length the work was finished (?), and the inhabitants, who had patiently borne the vast inconveniences to which they had been subjected by excavations, in the expectation of some great improvement, were shortly afterwards startled by the announcement that they could not drain into the pipes! It should be mentioned that the Commissioners had at this time either destroyed or taken possession of the old parish drains. All hope was, therefore, cut off from that quarter. "What are we to do?" asked the inhabitants. "Construct watertight cesspools," responded the Commissioners. So that, in fact, after all the inconvenience and expense, matters were far worse than ever.

I need not say that a sewers'-rate was paid with a very bad grace. It was only paid, indeed, upon a promise of speedy improvement.

Time passed by, but no improvement took place. At length another rate was made and demanded. The ratepayers demurred—some refused payment, and the Commissioners have gone to the extent of distraining and selling their goods. For what? Ah, "there's the rub." It was to ascertain this that on the 8th of March last a public meeting was held at the Bricklayers' Arms, Upper Sydenham. At that meeting a mass of evidence, so voluminous and overwhelming, was adduced against the Commissioners, that it was thought impossible for these gentlemen longer to remain inactive. A resolution was passed that they should be memorialized; and so they were.

On the 7th of June last, a deputation from Sydenham was introduced to the office in Greek-street, and there it was that the truth came out. The Commissioners had no funds. They were in debt; they could do nothing; they admitted they were powerless for good, and the only hope held out to the deputation was that if this and other districts would persuade Government to put them in possession of funds, something should be done.

A bill was then in course of preparation to effect this, and the inhabitants of Sydenham, finding that this was their only hope, set about adopting (with certain modifications) the suggestions then thrown out.

The measure was, at length, before the House. The Home Secretary asked for

£500,000, and ultimately £300,000 was granted.

During the passage of the bill through the House, Lord Palmerston, referring to the complaints which had emanated from various districts, invited the parties complaining to meet him at the Home Office, in the presence of the Commissioners, and if the requirements then moved were approved by the engineers retained on behalf of the Government (for the Commissioners are no longer the controlling power) they should be carried out.

This then is an epitome of the past.

Let us now turn to the future. There cannot be two opinions as to the propriety of accepting the Home Secretary's invitation on behalf of Sydenham.

A memorial to Lord Palmerston has been prepared and is now in course of signature. An elaborate plan of the proposed drainage will shortly be completed and ready for inspection. I should mention here that we are mainly indebted for this to Mr. W. B. Moffatt, the architect (late Scott and Moffatt, of Spring-gardens), who has had the entire laying out of all the stands round the Crystal Palace, as well as other large estates for building purposes in the immediate neighbourhood, whose connexion with the Crystal Palace will ensure us a most successful sewage arrangement, and to whom the public are also entirely indebted for all the late improvements in drainage matters.

This done, a deputation will attend at the Home Office, and it is to be hoped that the influential inhabitants of Sydenham will cheerfully come forward as members of it.

Without great assistance, it is utterly impossible to carry out efficiently and satisfactorily a task of such magnitude as that which is now undertaken; and really it is necessary that gentlemen who are residents of Sydenham should use every exertion to bring about a better state of things. Tradesmen, by whom, with a few praiseworthy exceptions, the agitation has been carried on, look to them with great confidence for that support and co-operation which it is certainly in their power to accord.

If in commencing this letter I considered an apology unnecessary, I cannot say at its close that one is not due to you for the almost unwarrantable length to which it has extended. Did I not know how much interest many of your readers take in the locality, I should feel ashamed in encroaching so far on your space. As it is, I can only, on behalf of the committee, thank you for the insertion, and subscribe myself,

Your obedient servant.

A SYDENHAM SUFFERER.

Sydenham, September, 1853.

NEW DECIMAL COINAGE.—The employés at the Royal Mint have been actively engaged in striking off the new decimal silver coinage, which will be issued at the commencement of 1854, the die bearing that date. Sovereigns, half-sovereigns, and florins, will remain without alteration.

GRAND TEMPERANCE FETE.—On Monday, September 12, a temperance fête was held at the Surrey Zoological Gardens by the London Temperance League. They mustered in Lincoln's-in-fields, where they were joined by several teetotal societies from various districts. The procession was completed by carriages, in which were Mr. and Mrs. Gough, Mr. James Silk Buckingham, the President of the London Temperance League, with the committee and officers. Mr. Gough, the eloquent American lecturer for the promotion of temperate habits, addressed the willing auditors, who heartily applauded him. The large assembly seemed highly gratified.

TERRA-COTTA STATUE AT SYDENHAM.—The terra-cotta statue of "Australia," designed and modelled by Mr. Bell—moulded, pressed, and fired by Mr. Blashfield—is now placed in the gardens of the Crystal Palace. A plaster mould was made from the model, into which a terra-cotta body, composed of Devon and Dorset clay, ground flint, glass, &c., was pressed, and the consistency of painter's putty. After the statue was finished by an artist, the final touches being given by Mr. Bell. The statue was then placed in a situation where it could dry slowly, and, when sufficiently dry, it was removed into a reverberatory kiln, upon which it was afterwards fired. The heat attained was that at which glass will melt. The firing occupied three weeks. It is, probably, the largest piece of pottery ever fired in an entire piece, the statue, including the plinth, being 8 feet 6 inches in height, and weighed, after burning, about 25 cwt.

THE QUEEN AT THE DUBLIN EXHIBITION.

This event is deserving of more extended description than furnished by our "Friendly Correspondent." The scene must have been an imposing and brilliant one, even to those who recollected the greater glory of May 1, 1851. Now, as then, a principal element of gaiety was the immense assemblage of fair and well-dressed spectators. Gallantry everywhere conduced to the first rank to the ladies; and they, besides thus forming a "flowery verge" to the central hall, festooned, by their adventurous grouping, every pillar, group of statuary, and industrial trophy. The members of the committee received her Majesty as she alighted, and conducted her at once to a small and prettily fitted-up apartment adjoining the main entrance. Thence, after a moment's pause, and preceded by them, she entered the central hall. From gallery and floor arose at once the most hearty cheers, which, accompanied by the music of the National Anthem, and the waving of hats and handkerchiefs, were prolonged as she advanced to the upper end of the hall. Prince Albert and the young Princess accompanied her Majesty, who was attended by the Duchess of Wellington, leaning on the arm of the Lord-Lieutenant, and the Countess St. Germans, carried off by Earl Granville. The committee, who, headed by their chairman, George Roe, led the way, having reached the foot of the raised dais on which the throne had been placed, formed a semicircle at its base—while the Queen and the other members of the Royal family, ascending the steps, took their places, her Majesty in the centre, with the Prince of Wales on her right hand, and the Princess Albert and Prince Arthur on her left. The spectacle which the hall now presented was singularly imposing; in front, the vast assemblage standing up, and cheering loudly—behind, the Court, in an attitude of respectful attendance; and beyond them, on the verge of the platform, a semicircle of the Irish nobility. The Queen appeared touched by the scene. His Royal Highness Prince Albert seemed almost affected, and he gazed earnestly for some minutes over the great area of the hall, to the aspect of which the enthusiasm of loyalty added an indescribable charm. The deep silence of expectation followed, as, at a signal from the Lord Chamberlain, the committee drew near, and their chairman read an address.

In the address to Prince Albert mention was specifically made of Mr. Dargan's merits, and his Royal Highness's attention was particularly drawn to a peculiarity of the present exhibition:—

We feel bound to attribute to an honoured and enterprising individual the merit of having enabled this committee to co-operate with the Royal Dublin Society in giving a character of more than usual prominence to their triennial exhibition of manufactures, which was to be held this year, and of having erected this Temple of Industry, which her Majesty and your Royal Highness now grace by your presence.

Of the practical value of exhibitions it is unnecessary to dilate in the present case; your Royal Highness, who has so ably advocated their public utility; but we may be allowed to direct your attention to a distinguishing peculiarity of the Exhibition of 1853, which extends the principle laid down by the Royal Commission of 1851, as to include painting, the highest order of the arts, and also examples of the industrial and artistic products of by-gone ages, whereby their progressive advance can be traced from the earliest times to the present.

The tribute paid to Dargan's "patriotic munificence," not only by the Prince, but by the Queen, will probably induce some curiosity as to the share which he was taking in the proceedings. Once or twice, before her Majesty arrived, he was seen moving about in the vacant space reserved for her reception, and instantly a kindly cheer arose from all parts of the building. Then he disappeared and attracted no notice until after the Prince's reply, when the Lord Chamberlain beckoned him forward to the foot of the throne. He emerged from the most retired position in the whole of committee members, and kneeling down, kissed the Queen's hand, at which the assembly testified their pleasure by a loud and enthusiastic cheer.

After these presentations a procession was formed, in which the committee and chief officials of the Exhibition took the lead, and the Lord Mayor and Corporation followed; then came the Queen and Prince Albert, the two young Princes, the Royal suite, the Lord-Lieutenant, Lady St. Germans, and the principal members of the Viceregal household. The procession was not one of strict state and ceremony, for the Lord-Chamberlain walked like ordinary human beings instead of as usual, and her Majesty, instead of a diadem, wore a "very pretty pink bonnet." Leaving the centre of the building, the Royal visitors first passed through the north hall, where the hardware, the textile fabrics, and the manufactures from mineral substances are chiefly located—the portion of the building which makes the least show, but probably has the most intrinsic merit and practical interest. From the north hall the procession, passing by the ancient crosses fixed at the chief entrance, moved slowly through the foreign compartments on the south side, and thence into the picture gallery, which had been kept perfectly clear of spectators in order that her Majesty might enjoy uninterrupted the first impressions produced by an unrivalled collection of paintings admirably displayed.

Recrossing the picture gallery, the Royal party were conducted across the Indian compartment, and resumed their former positions on the raised dais. In awful pomp the civic dignitaries of Dublin now approached the throne. As they ascended the steps of the platform all the weight and responsibility of office fluttered in their scarlet robes, and bent itself in their dutiful obeisances. With an imposing rattle, the City Marshal deposited his ponderous keys at the foot of the Sovereign, and the macebearer similarly resigned

his badge of authority. Not content with standing at the modest distance of the committee, the aldermen and corporation drew so near the throne as to block out all view of what took place from the majority of the spectators. The address, read by the Recorder, and presented by the Lord Mayor, concluded with an emphatic declaration of loyalty and attachment. The address to Prince Albert paid him the sonorous compliment, "To you belongs the grand idea of arousing the intelligence of the world in a generous competition to promote the arts of industry and peace"—to which the Prince modestly replied.

The ceremonial of the Royal visit was now over, and, having stood for a minute to take a last look at the brilliant spectacle of the day, the Queen gave the signal to depart. Amid loud and enthusiastic cheers she was conducted down the central hall to the entrance, whence she proceeded at once to the Vice-regal Lodge—the music of the National Anthem accompanying her exit, as it had announced her arrival.

On the afternoon of the same day, the Queen and Prince Albert visited Mr. and Mrs. Dargan. The manner of her Majesty was exceedingly courteous. Mrs. Dargan having been presented was warmly received. The Royal party were, after a time, conducted through the splendid mansion to the lofty tower adjoining, from which they obtained views of Kingston Harbour, and the Wicklow mountains, Howth, and the Bay of Dublin, the city and the luxuriant valley of the Liffey. Her Majesty and the Royal Highness expressed their warmest admiration of the scenery. After a visit of more than half-an-hour's duration, the party prepared to return; and while the carriages were being brought round, the Queen and Prince Albert again entered into familiar conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Dargan.

Prince Albert, on the same day, showed his usual interest in efforts for the improvement of the people, by visiting the baths and washhouses on Usher's Quay, and the model lodging-house in Marlborough-street.

On the remaining days of the week, the Queen and Prince, with their children, privately visited the Exhibition, at an early hour, remaining till some time after the admission of the public. A business-like tribute was paid to the self-supporting character of the Exhibition by the purchase of ten season tickets for the use of the Royal visitors.

CHOLERA.

An authoritative intimation that cholera is even now amongst us has been made. The *London Gazette* of Friday last contained an "Order in Council," enforcing the provisions of the act for the prevention of contagious and epidemic diseases. This act passed on the 4th Sept., 1848, and is entitled, "An act to renew and amend an act of the tenth year of her present Majesty, for the more speedy removal of certain nuisances, and the prevention of contagious and epidemic diseases," and empowers the Privy Council to issue orders for putting in force the provisions relative to contagious and epidemic diseases. The order having been issued for Great Britain for the next six months, the General Board of Health may provide for the frequent and effectual cleansing of streets and public ways; for the ventilating and disinfecting of dwellings; for the removal of nuisances, and the speedy interment of the dead; and generally for preventing or mitigating such epidemic in such manner as to the Board may seem expedient. Medicines may be dispensed and medical aid provided. Houses can be removed. At any time, and anything injurious to health removed. The expenses are to be paid out of the poor's-rate. There are various provisions to enforce the act, and penalties are to be levied and recovered for obstructing its execution. All orders and regulations are to be laid before Parliament and gazetted.

The Holborn Board of Guardians, finding that the provisions of this act are inadequate to suppress all the nuisances brought under their notice, have applied to the Poor-law Board for direction, and received the following reply, signed "Courtenay, secretary":—

I am directed to state, that the Board have had the subject of the representations made to them under their consideration; and are of opinion that the guardians remedy the evils referred to, except as arising under the statute 2nd and 3rd of Victoria, c. 71, s. 4, or the Nuisances Removal Acts, 11th and 12th Victoria, c. 133, and statutes gives a remedy in c. 111. The first of these houses which is duly certified by the occupiers of any unwholesome condition that the health of the immediate neighbourhood is thereby affected or endangered; but in cases where the occupiers of the premises are very poor, the remedy would probably be of little avail to the guardians. If, however, complaints are made to the guardians by two or more householders, or certificates laid before them by the medical or relieving-officers as to the filthy and unwholesome condition of the premises, in which admit of proceedings being taken against the owners as well as the occupiers, the Board see no reason why a remedy may not be obtained, so far as to place the premises in a good state, by abating the nuisances referred to.

The epidemic is still confined, except in individual cases, to Newcastle, Gateshead, and in the north of Scotland. But for the great activity that has been shown by the local authorities in providing extra medical aid, it is believed that its progress would have been much more rapid, as a very large amount of diarrhoea is discovered and arrested by the house to house visitation of the medical inspectors. Handbills are largely circulated, pointing out the great danger of neglecting looseness

of the bowels while the epidemic influence is present; but, notwithstanding all efforts of the authorities and the medical visitors, many cases occur in which diarrhoea is allowed to pass unchecked into developed cholera. At least 15,000 families in the town are destitute of water-closets or privies, and father and daughter, mother and son, brother and sister, perform generally in the same room the ordinary functions of nature; and that this is cast into the streets, so that entire districts are converted into gigantic cesspools.

A very important step has been taken by order of the Board of Health. It had been found that in a part of Newcastle, called Sandgate, 4,000 people are living in a state of such filth, overcrowding, and absolute want of the commonest conveniences for cleanliness, or the slightest hope of effectually checking the progress of the epidemic among them was to remove them from the locality. Acting on the experience of 1849, when in the small town of Merseyside, in Cornwall, where the habitations of the poor are closely packed, and where the whole site is described as one mass of filth, which could not be removed in time to avert the most disastrous consequences, the population, and the Board of Ordnance granted the use of tents, in which 360 of the population were accommodated, and amongst them not a single case of cholera occurred, while 126 additional cases took place among the population which remained in the houses,—acting on this experience, application has been made to the Inspector advised the Board of Ordnance. The latter Board promptly sent an order for the immediate dispatch of 200 tents, and the former office promise the aid and co-operation of an experienced officer. On Monday morning the tents were erected on the town Moor, and the removal of the population commenced.

At Shields, only one case of indubitable cholera—that of a little boy—is reported. At Gateshead, it is hoped the epidemic has exhausted its virulence. At Newcastle, one case of cholera has been reported, but not certified.

Three cases of supposed Asiatic cholera have occurred in York-cour, Earl-street, Marylebone, in an Irish lodging-house. In only one case the attack proved fatal. A medical gentleman reports that the cases were "sporadic," not Asiatic cholera, but pertinently adds—"Nor is it necessary to go to Asia for causes sufficient to produce such terrible results, when in our own streets there exist causes of disease as intense as can be fostered in the jungles or the Black Hole of Calcutta."

Dr. Evans, who attended John Hickie, the South-west victim of Asiatic cholera, states that, when called to the deceased, who was a man of strong muscular development, in height about six feet two inches, he found him suffering from all the symptoms of Asiatic cholera in its most virulent form. He immediately placed him under the influence of chloroform.

The terrible agony of the dying giant subsided into the calm and painless sleep of an infant. For the space of an hour no spasm or evacuation occurred. Reaction took place, he awoke, expressed himself better, and entered into conversation with those around him. It appears to me, the effects resulting from this powerful agent are various and beneficial. Relieved of the spasms witnessing the painful contortions of the afflicted, and by its inhalation, a new principle is introduced into the blood. The spasm, vomiting, and purging, are allayed, the medicines given before its exhibition have time to become absorbed, which the constant vomiting would necessarily prevent. I do not consider that the specific cholera poison destroys the patient, but the consequent exhaustion. The fluid particles of the blood are withdrawn by the constant vomiting and purging—the blood becomes viscid, even to the consistence of treacle; diarrhoea, of course, the result, with a corresponding depression of the nervous system. Now, if, by the moderate use of chloroform, these fatal symptoms can be warded off for one hour, why not persist for a much longer period in its administration, so as to give the patient time to rally.

MODEL OF THE NEW CRYSTAL PALACE.—We were invited the other day to inspect a model of the New Crystal Palace, made by a mechanic named Trumble, of Vere-street, Clare-market. Its length is about fifty-four inches, and its height and depth about twelve inches each way. We understand that the ingenious maker intends to send it to the Sydenham Palace, unless previously disposed of. The price is £5. It is a model of the Crystal Palace, with a corresponding depression of the nervous system. Now, if, by the moderate use of chloroform, these fatal symptoms can be warded off for one hour, why not persist for a much longer period in its administration, so as to give the patient time to rally.

Several statues of British Sovereigns, in stone, have been just set up in the Centre Hall of the New Houses of Parliament. The Sovereigns represented are Henry II.; Edward I., and his Queen, Eleanor; Eleanor, Queen of Henry III.; Isabella, Queen of Edward II.; Edward III., and his Queen Philippa; Richard II.; and Henry IV. Several other statues of regal personages are nearly completed, and will shortly be placed in the recesses prepared for them.

Mr. Crockill, of Beverley, the well-known maker of agricultural implements, won the gold medal for his plough, which he exhibited at the annual show of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society. He has presented the medal to the Rev. Patrick Bell, the Scotch minister; whom he describes as "the only original inventor of a machine so well calculated to prove an inestimable benefit to the producers and consumers of bread in all parts of the world."

MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, AT HULL.

The British Association for the Advancement of Science has many points in common with the Crystal Palace; and it has one notable point of difference. The agents in being organized for the promotion and diffusion of power—for knowledge is power. But the Crystal Palace, on its lofty and commanding situation, must be visited by those who would know it; whereas, the British Association is essentially locomotive—and a locomotive engine (we now say) of tried value and power. We may say this now. We may fairly and legitimately call it a tried and approved machine. It has stood for twenty-three years, and works as well as or better than ever. It shows no signs of decrepitude or disorganization, but, on the contrary, many signs of natural vigour. It grows; and it grows without having been forced—it grows in spite of having been sneered at, laughed at, written at—in spite of *Punch*, who has been jealous, and the *Times*, that has been indignant about it.

The plan of it, that once a year, men interested in the pursuit and diffusion of science should meet at one of the larger British towns, and hold meetings for the sake of publishing new, discussing doubtful, and applying old, discoveries. Its division is in sections—one for mathematics, a second for the natural history sciences, a third for chemistry, a fourth for geography and ethnology, a fifth for the arts and crafts, a sixth for geology, and a seventh for mechanics—each working under its own president, in its own allotted rooms, with its own committee, and before its own audience—male and female, lay or clerical, learned or unlearned, as the case may be. And they work well as aforesaid. One of the best things they do is the excitement of attention to local facts; and this makes the character of the lectures where they meet tell upon the hearers. Thus, in Manchester, the mechanical department comes out strong; the geographical in Swansea; the physiological in Edinburgh; and so on. Hull has been strong in the natural and commercial history of the Humber, upon the effects of the sea upon the west coast of Yorkshire, and on several other matters—matters of which the wise men of London know something, but the wise men of Yorkshire more.

This is the action of the town upon the philosophers. Then comes the action of the philosophers on the town. Wise men never show themselves in vain; and wise words never fall to the ground unfruitful. The existence of the Crystal Palace has stimulated the local genius of Sydenham. The meeting of the British Association has not been lost on Hull. So they say there; and so those who save them believe. All the better. This is another use of the Association.

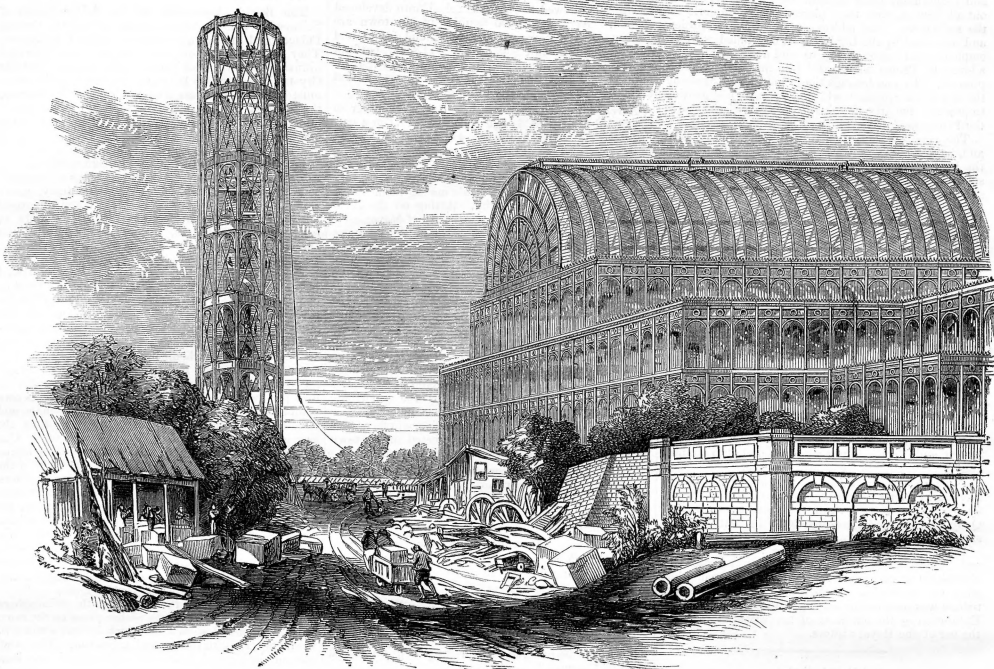
All this is popular. So are (or ought to be) all good things. Sulky, solitary thought, reclusive speculation, bottomless profundities of learning,—we speak of these things with respect, but we say of them, that their time has gone by for being exhibited on a large scale, and to the exclusion of the more practical forms of information. They are gone by—like painted glass, like epic poems, like the legitimate drama, like Pindaric odes, because their day has gone by. The exception must become more and more the rule, the average millions must think more and more like the great units—and the institutions we have mentioned in the present notice must promote the change.

As to the Hall meeting itself, it realized, and exceeded, expectation; not so much, however, because it was a first-rate meeting, but because reasonable men formed reasonable hopes. The town is quiet and unambitious—not over much before the industrial world, like Manchester; nor yet in a position of continual literary prominence, like the Universities. Still, its working men were numerous and active, and its institutions were solvent—a great thing in itself. But the really valuable part of the meeting was its friendly, comfortable character. There were no crack papers—no brilliant discoveries—no new scientific lions. There was also a deficiency of some of the usual magazines. Nevertheless, the papers were useful, and if the town was as well pleased with the meeting as the meeting seemed to be with the town, no *réunion* has been more successful than the Hull one.

Up to this point the writer expects to be believed. But in what he will next advance he can scarcely be so sanguine as to hope for credit. The hospitality of the private houses seemed to have extended itself to the hotels. Full in the face of the universal uproar about the publican exorbitance, a traveller can be found who is, at one and the same time, a witness to, and experienced, and a witness to, the really valuable part of the meeting was its friendly, comfortable character. There were no crack papers—no brilliant discoveries—no new scientific lions. There was also a deficiency of some of the usual magazines. Nevertheless, the papers were useful, and if the town was as well pleased with the meeting as the meeting seemed to be with the town, no *réunion* has been more successful than the Hull one.

HORTICULTURAL DEPARTMENT OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

A great variety of plants and roots have arrived from Mrs. Lodgige's, at Hackney, consisting of upwards of 2,000 cannelias, of every description of colour—white, red, and white (Prince Albert), crimson, &c.; and intended to be managed so as to be induced to flower nearly every month in the year. They are already arranged, for the winter, at the No. 100 end of the building. One tree must be mentioned, it being so fine a specimen, more than twenty feet high: the others vary from three feet and upwards. Besides these, there are two splendid pine trees, as well as several smaller ones, of the Norfolk Island species; roots of the elephant's-foot plant, and the Kafr bread-tree; and several thousands of geraniums, planted in the open air, comprising the Mexicanum, Lancastriense sanguineum, rubrifolium, &c.



PROGRESS OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE WORKS.—(SEE PAGE 8.)

A TRIP TO THE DUBLIN EXHIBITION OF THE WORKS OF ALL NATIONS.

(From the Journal of a Friendly Correspondent.)

"May the sons of the Thames, the Tweed, and the Shannon,

Drub the foe that dare plant on their confines a canon:

United and happy at Loyalty's shrine,
May the Rose and the Thistle long flourish and twine,
Round the sprig of shillalah and shamrock so green."

AVAILING ourselves of one of Marcus's cheap excursion trains to Holyhead, and from thence by sea to Dublin, a trio of us "hale men of Kent" left the terminus at Euston-square at mid-day last Wednesday week; and, harring the tiresome stoppages at every station, our journey down to the fine old city of Chester was pleasant enough; and, our most gracious Queen having preceded us only a short time, the various stations were gaily decked out with the choicest flowers of the season, and insignias of loyalty, especially at Tamworth. The following morning we resumed our journey, and reached Holyhead at noon, after witnessing the charming scenery of North Wales, and passing through that stupendous wonder of the age, the Britannia Tubular Bridge. In the evening we embarked for Kingston, and five hours afterwards we were comfortably landed in *ould* Ireland, and found our way immediately by rail (for sixpence each) to our old favourite hotel, through streets still illuminated in honour of the Queen's visit, and where we were *dacently done for* on the most reasonable terms, considering the great excitement which prevailed throughout the city at the time. Beds, 2s. each; breakfast, 1s. 6d.; dinner, 6s., 2s. 6d., including both spirits and porter.

About 10 a.m. the next morning, we set out for Merion-square, where the Great Exhibition and grand object of our visit is situated; but just as we came to the principal entrance, an official notice was placed there to intimate that in consequence of her Majesty and suite being in the interior at the time the public would not be admitted till twelve o'clock. At that hour the doors were thrown open, and we were, after all, admitted some time before the Queen had concluded her inspection of the various sections. The building is admirably constructed, and though is only a third of the size, we suppose, of the great original in Hyde Park, still we were, on the whole, about as well satisfied with the contents of the one as of the other, and more particularly with the Fine Arts department of the Dublin Exhibition; for in this they greatly excel, having a gallery of paintings, "rich and rare," from some of the choicest collections in Europe. And, as a proof of this, there are at least 140 names of the old masters, alphabetically arranged, in an extra catalogue, with a brief but interesting biography of each artist, including Artois, Backhuysen, Berghem, Borgognone, Buonarroti, Canaletto, Carracci, Caravaggio, Coreggio, Cuypp, Dome-

nichino, Dolci, Decker, Denner, Douw, Durer, Eyck, Eeckhout, Ferrari, Fuseli, Guido, Guercino, Goyen, Hobbema, Holbein, Lauri, Leyden, Maratti, Mola, Murillo, Ostade, Parmigiano, Perugino, Paul Potter, Poussin, Raffaele, Rembrandt, Romano, Rosa, Rubens, Sarto, Snyder, Spagnoletto, Teniers, Telburg, Tintoretto, Titian, Tivoli, Vandyck, Vandervelde, Vanloo, Velasques, Vernet, Watteau, Wouvermans, Wyckersloot, Zuccarelli, Zurbaran, and many others, English as well as foreign—forming altogether one of the most valuable and pleasing displays of pictorial art we have examined for many years.

As to the multifarious and pleasing variety of articles (filling a large folio catalogue of 216 pages) we must not attempt to describe at present, and would, by all means, advise our friends to go and judge for themselves, during the five or six weeks the collection remains open for inspection. Our friend Marcus still offers to book tourists from London to Dublin, and "back again," for the moderate charge of *thirty shillings*! allowing you fourteen or nineteen days to accomplish a journey which, ten years ago, would have cost just three times the sum. But not to be too prosy, take the following compliment of one of our party to one of Erin's fairest daughters, and though no attempt, certainly, at the sublime, it is not altogether, we believe, without sincerity:—

"I gave a lovely Irish nymph
Some ribbons, white and blue,
Because it was her natal day,
And just sweet twenty-two.

"Oh, were I but her favourite swain,
And she would go with me,
To dwell in England—happy land,
The land of liberty!

"Her shape is handsome, and her smile
Is worth Victoria's crown;
And so discreet—yea, what is more,
She's never seen to frown.

"May He who rules the sea and sky
(By whom the tempest's staid)
Watch o'er sweet Mary, queen of hearts,
The darling Irish maid!"

Our most gracious Majesty, ever anxious to foster British art, has been pleased to purchase the original drawings, made by R. W. Carmichael, Esq., of the late review of the ships of war off the Isle of Wight, two of which appeared in a recent number of the *Illustrated London News*.

Sydenham, Sept. 13.

RAENUD.

Mr. Blewitt, the popular composer and singer of English songs, has lately died, leaving a widow and family unprotected for.

Some time this month a better description of cabs and omnibuses are to be brought out under the new law, and to be subject to the inspection from time to time of the Police Commissioners.

The Queen has presented £500 to the Lord Mayor of Dublin, for distribution among the charities of that city.

"CHEAPER THAN EVER."—Two noted pugilists had a "mill" for £200. When the decimal coinage is established, they will be able to have no less than five "mils" for a penny.—*Diogenes*.

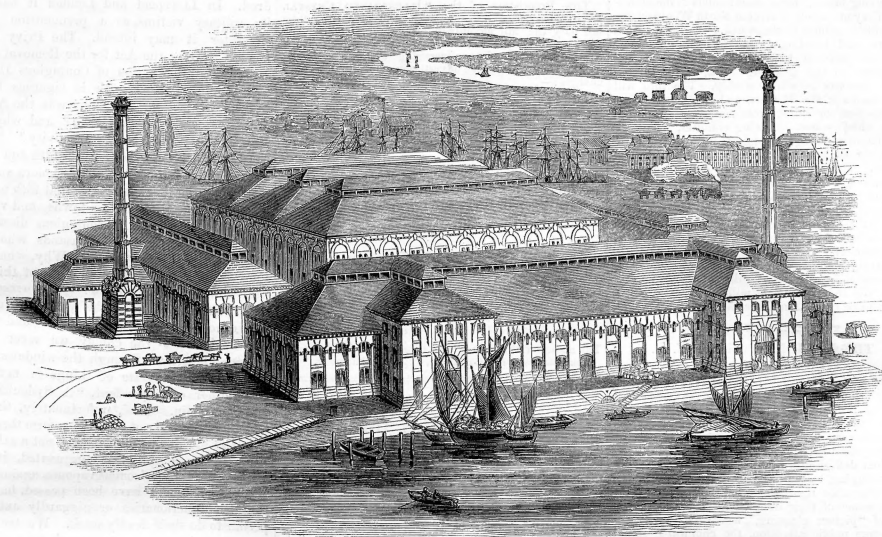
A scheme has lately been projected for printing and circulating a million copies of the New Testament in the Chinese language. The work is now completed, and a Chinese New Testament can be printed and sold for fourpence.

NEW CHURCH AT FOREST-HILL.—On Sunday, September 18th, three sermons were preached at Bartholomew Church, Upper Sydenham, in aid of the funds for erecting a place of worship at Forest-hill, for the special benefit of the poor as well as the opulent in that locality; that in the morning by the Rev. Mr. Clark, of Lewisham, those in the afternoon and evening by the Rev. Mr. English. At the latter we were fortunate enough to be present, with the two or three (figuratively speaking)—and truly there was a miserable "account of empty benches"—pews, we should say—and we fear the collection was anything but satisfactory; but a more eloquent or appropriate discourse we have seldom listened to, the rev. gentleman choosing for his text a portion of the First Book of Chronicles, wherein "David, the sweet singer of Israel," gives instructions to his son Solomon to build a house to his God worthy of the King of kings. We trust the sermon alluded to will, ere long, be published for the edification of the public generally in this district.—[The collections we are informed, amounted, altogether, to sixty-three pounds.—Ed.]

BOWLING CLUB.—SYDENHAM ANNIVERSARY DINNER.—On Thursday, September 22, the tenth anniversary dinner of the members of the Bowling Club took place at the Greyhound Hotel, where a sumptuous entertainment was prepared for the occasion by the respected host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Ridgway, calculated to satisfy the taste of the most fastidious alderman or *gownman* in the city of London. Mr. Dale, of Lower Sydenham, discharged the duties of chairman most efficiently. The health of her Majesty was given and most heartily responded to. Mr. Clewlow, of Upper Sydenham, filled the vice-chair satisfactorily, and, after choice wines of the right sort had been freely circulated, the majority of the company retired for an hour's recreation at their favourite games, and afterwards spent the evening most congenially, and parted

"With hearts neither sorry nor sore,
Resolved the next year to drink one bottle more."

As admirers of the fine arts, we ought not to omit mentioning that the spacious dining-room was tastefully decorated with a masterly portrait of her Majesty, Queen Victoria, as she appeared on horseback at the Grand review at Chobham—a clever interior sketch of the New Palace at Sydenham—an oil painting by Hodges—and an original head of "the oldest man in Kent."



WESTRUP'S PATENT CONICAL FLOUR MILL, NORTH WOOLWICH.

With wheat approaching 60s. per quarter, every mode of lessening the cost of its manufacture should be rendered available, and therefore it is that we direct especial attention to this newly-constructed corn-mill; one most important feature of which is, that it will save from forty to fifty per cent. in the expense of grinding. Without apology, then, we proceed at some length to describe the invention.

It is a remarkable fact, that a country like England, which for nearly a century past has made such gigantic advances in the invention and improvement of mechanical power, should have continued the rude invention of the earliest ages for the grinding of wheat, without a single alteration in principle, and with but few material changes in adaptation, until the invention by Mr. Westrup of the CONICAL MILL. It is almost equally remarkable, that when colossal edifices have been for years past, and still are, reared for the manufacture of so many and such various branches of industry and commerce, the manufacture of one of the two necessities of life should have been left to the very inadequate agency of the ordinary corn mills at present in use. Mr. Westrup, however, a practical London miller and baker, of upwards of thirty years' experience, having had his attention roused by alterations of the old mill, on which he suggested some valuable practical improvements, was induced, by these and other circumstances, to consider the defects of the whole system; and from this he was led to the invention of an entirely new principle of grinding wheat, for which—with other inventions for cleaning the wheat and dressing the flour, he obtained a patent under the Great Seal of England.

Having completed a mill on his patented principle, he placed it in the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park in the year 1851, where it attracted marked attention from his Royal Highness Prince Albert, who visited it on several occasions; and the following account of it—which is extracted from a "Rudimentary Treatise on the Power of Water," by Mr. Joseph Glynn, F.R.S., &c., may be given as the impartial opinion of a competent authority:—

"The Conical Flour Mill, so to speak, has two pairs of millstones combined, working together, the one pair placed above the other, so that the upper pair commences the grinding process, and the lower pair completing it; there is a space between the two pairs of millstones about twenty-seven or thirty inches in height, and the greater portion of this height or space is used as a vertical dressing-mill, the spindle which drives the stones being fitted with brushes, and the space closed with a cylindrical screen of fine wirecloth, mounted on a frame in the usual way. The upper mill-stones are fixed, and the lower stones revolve, and both the upper and lower stones are placed upon one spindle. The upper stones are each made in two parts or semicircles bolted together, for the purpose of fixing or displacing when needful, and they are capable of adjustment by means of fixed wedges or inclined planes, on which they rest, so that, by the action of a screw and wheel, a partial horizontal turn or twist of either of the upper stones causes it to slide up or down on these bent wedges or inclined planes, which are placed round the circumference

of the stone. It is thus raised or lowered, and the grinding space adjusted with great facility. The lower mill-stones, which revolve, are convex, and the upper stones concave and annular, for the stone being of small diameter, the eye of the stone is large in proportion. The diameter is about two feet six inches, and the grinding surface on each side of this ring of stone eight or nine inches broad; the rise or bevel of the cone in that

width is about four inches. The stones being small necessarily revolve rapidly, say about 250 revolutions per minute. The finest flour is brushed through the wire-work of the vertical cylinder, and received in a casing of wood. The larger particles and portions of the corn imperfectly ground pass into the lower pair of stones, and are reduced into meal ready for dressing in the ordinary way.

"As, by this arrangement of parts, the corn cannot be delivered into the centre of the upper mill-stones, a hopper or chamber is placed on one side, with a sliding tube or feed-pipe in the top of it, and an upright spindle carrying a dish, which, revolving quickly, evenly distributes the corn. This description will probably enable the reader to understand the annexed engraving, which is copied from a section obtained from the inventor.

A summary of the advantages to be obtained by the employment of Mr. Westrup's Patent Mill, may be gathered from the following extracts, taken from a petition presented by Lord Beaumont to the House of Lords, and by Sir John Villiers Shelley, Bart., M.P., to the House of Commons, on tendering the use of the patent for the army and navy, upon such terms as Parliament should deem expedient:—

"That, by this invention, very great improvements have been effected in the grinding of flour, by the prevention of waste, the economy of time, space, and labour, and the production of a better and healthier article for the consumption of the whole nation.

"That, with regard to the prevention of waste, the method of grinding by this invention, if universally adopted, would save to the population of England, from the same quantity of wheat they consume at present, no less than 81,857,120 quarter loaves, which, at 6d. per loaf, would be in money value the large amount of £2,046,428 per annum.

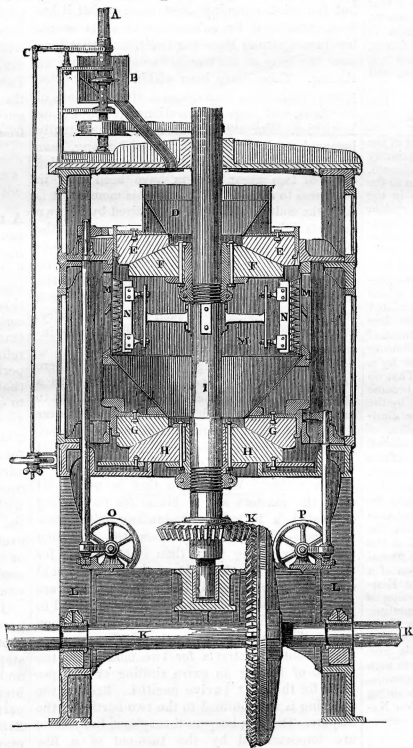
"That, with regard to the economy of time and labour, the report of the engineer shows that flour is, obtained by this invention at little more than one-half the cost of the steam-power, fuel, and labour usually employed, equal to a gain of nearly 100 per cent.

"That, with regard to better and healthier bread being produced by this invention than that usually sold, it has been found that flour ground by this process is stronger, and lasts longer, than the ordinary flour while it cannot become sour and unwholesome, which are fruitful sources of many and fatal diseases.

"That flour produced by this invention will possess all the superior advantages of Parisian flour, in colour and other respects, so as to render unnecessary any further importations from France, giving to our own farmers and millers a new market, and a great increase of custom and profit."

The evidence of physicians and other medical and scientific men shows, in a startling manner, that many ailments and diseases are traceable to the deterioration of flour by the common process, which may be prevented by the adoption of the new principle.

We understand a petition is now before the Board of Trade, or the Privy Council, signed by the Earl of Essex, Lord Portman, Sir J. V. Shelley, Bart., M.P., the Right Hon. Charles Pugh Villiers, M.P., the Right Hon. R. A. Christopher, M.P., W. A. Mackinnon, M.P., J. Bonham Carter, M.P., C. Hindley, M.P., B. B. Cabell, M.P., praying for a charter of incorpo-



- (A)—Feed pipe.
- (B)—Chamber containing feed regulator.
- (C)—Feed regulator.
- (D)—Chamber over the eye of the stones which receives the wheat for the regulator.
- (E)—Upper top mill-stone (stationary).
- (F)—Upper runner.
- (G)—Lower top stone (stationary).
- (H)—Lower runner.
- (I)—Spindles upon which the runners are hung.
- (K)—Bevil wheels and driving shaft.
- (L)—Iron frame sustaining the whole machine.
- (M)—Upright Wire Cylinder.
- (N)—Brushes acting on the wire cylinder.
- (O)—Regulator for adjusting the upper pair of stones.
- (P)—Regulator for adjusting the lower pair of stones.

ration, the above noblemen and gentlemen, with several others, having become large shareholders in the undertaking. They are about to erect at North Woolwich the largest mill ever built in the world (we give a sketch of the proposed building). It will contain a handsome double pair of the conical stones, which will be adequate to the grinding of upwards of ten thousand quarters of wheat weekly. The mill will be on the banks of the Thames, and at the same time have a junction or siding from a railway connected with the chief wheat-growing counties, affording peculiar facilities for the receipt of grain either from home or abroad, and its dispersion when converted into flour. The want of such an establishment is daily becoming more obvious, as there are no means of supplying the rapidly-increasing demand for flour ground upon this principle.

Two of these mills can be seen daily at work at Messrs. Pavitt's, 247, Wapping, who are so satisfied of their superiority over the old system, that they are about having four more erected. Orders are also being executed for all parts of this country, as well as foreign. We understand that mills on this principle are about to be erected in Paris and New York.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

The committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the management of the National Gallery, report that the imperfections and irregularities in the working of the present system originate, for the most part, in certain fundamental defects and anomalies in the system itself; in the want, more especially, of any clear definition of the powers or responsibilities of the managing body of the institution, and in the absence of specific regulations for their guidance in the performance of their duties. In dealing with the subject of "pictures cleaning," which has lately attracted some public attention, the committee detail the processes adopted in the gallery, and state, from the evidence before them, it appears that discrepancies, varieties of opinion, and general uncertainty, even among professional men, prevail upon this subject. The committee examined many artists, amateurs, and picture-dealers, on the condition of the pictures cleaned under instructions in the National Gallery, and their evidence on the point exhibited great contrariety of judgment, and irreconcilable differences of taste; but the preponderance of testimony is to the effect that the appearance of the pictures has for the present been rendered less agreeable by the operation of cleaning. The committee recommend that, in future, no picture-cleaner shall be employed who does not give a full explanation of his mode of cleaning, and that this shall not be done without a written report from the directors of the gallery to the trustees. The committee state that after the National Gallery became public property, the principal charge of it devolved on the Treasury, and to this department of the Government, consequently, has attached the primary responsibility for the conduct of the establishment. The committee consider it has not acted of justice to the trustees to add their opinion that the defects in the present management are chargeable on the system rather than on the individual managers. The committee observe that they are sensible of the obligation under which the public lies to the trustees for their disinterested services. The system itself, when first instituted, appeared to have been not only comparatively free from the more serious objections to which it has since become liable, but to have been calculated in many respects to promote the objects its founders had in view. In regard to the future management of the gallery, the committee have come to the following resolutions:—1. That a system of management by a Board of Trustees should be continued. 2. That no person should, in future, in virtue of any office, become a trustee. 3. That the trustees be appointed by the Treasury. 4. That the number of trustees be diminished as vacancies occur. 5. That the office of keeper of the gallery be abolished. 6. That a salaried director be appointed by the Treasury for a definite time, at the expiration of which he may be re-appointed. 7. That every recommendation for the purchase of a picture should originate with the directors, and be made in writing to the trustees. 8. That a fixed sum should be annually proposed to Parliament for the purchase of pictures, and placed at the disposal of the trustees. 9. That the site of the present National Gallery is not well adapted for the construction of a new gallery. 10. With respect to the estate at Kensington Gore, purchased by the Royal Commission of 1851, and by them offered to the nation, the committee recommend the acceptance of the offer of the commissioners. 11. The committee are of opinion that the question of combining the various artistic and archaeological collections in the British Museum with the National Gallery be referred to a royal commission, and that no time should be lost in obtaining a decision on this subject, in order that the New National Gallery should be commenced with all convenient speed.

The committee sat upwards of thirty-five days, and the above is the quintessence of a report extending over some twenty folio pages.

VALUE OF LAND IN THE CITY OF LONDON.—A piece of land, situated at the north-west corner of Finch-lane, containing about 400 square yards, belonging to the corporation of St. Thomas's Hospital, has been let on lease, for a term of eighty years, at a rental of £1,300 per annum, to the Australasian Banking Company, with a condition to erect upon it a substantial stone building.

TO ADVERTISERS.

THE PROPRIETORS of the "ILLUSTRATED CRYSTAL PALACE GAZETTE" have determined to give the public not only the full advantage of the repeal of the Advertisement Duty, but to reduce their charges to such a scale as shall place advertising within the means of all. They will receive advertisements at the following charges:—

1 line Advertisement	s. d.
2 ditto	0 6
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4 ditto	1 6
5 ditto	2 0
6 ditto	2 6
7 ditto	3 0

All advertisements must be paid for in advance.

Advertisements must be forwarded to No. 6, Horse-shoe-court, by the 26th of each month.

Notice to Correspondents.

Owing to an unusual number of contributions from our friends on various subjects, we must substitute "The Trip to Dublin" for that of "Uncle David's Trip to Genoa, Florence, Rome, &c.," till next month.

The names of the jury at the late Crystal Palace accident inquest will, if possible, appear in our next.

THE ILLUSTRATED CRYSTAL PALACE GAZETTE.

OCTOBER, 1853.

The News of the Month.

"PEACE on earth, goodwill among men," is the message to the world of industrial congresses and cosmopolitan exhibitions. It was proudly hoped that the half-century inaugurated by the gathering of all peoples on the banks of the Thames, would, unlike its predecessor, know of war only by history and rumour. Hitherto this promise of 1851 has not been absolutely broken; but the most sanguine must confess that it has been preserved by submission to evils scarce less in magnitude than war itself, and that even now the bray of the trumpet seems breaking on the ear. There have been within the last three years, revolutions, insurrections, apprehensions of invasions, and huge preparations for immediate hostilities. For the last four months, mutually incensed armies, a hundred thousand strong, have been separated only by a river, and the allied fleets of two great powers have been kept in readiness to assist a third. At this moment, it is said, the Sultan of Turkey is required by his own subjects either to abdicate or lead them against the Russians, who continue to entrench themselves in the two finest provinces of the Turkish empire. What a pity,—who will not exclaim?—that the nations whose representatives excited so much interest, and indulged in such amicable rivalry, in the alcoves of the World's Fair, should now insist on fighting one another to the death!

But not among foreign nations alone is there hostility. Our own people have got to learn a lesson which the spectacle of May 1851, ought to have gone far to teach them. Strikes all over the country show the prevalence of much ignorance and ill-feeling among both employers and the employed. We, of course, pretend not to lecture either. We believe that in nearly all cases the masters are to blame for not having cultivated a better understanding with their workmen—that, in many cases, the workmen are plainly asking more than it is possible for the masters to give. One thing we would strongly impress upon both—that strikes are mutually ruinous. Few capitalists can afford to let their machinery stand idle, and their money lie at the banker's—no workman can afford to walk about the streets for two months, on the chance of having an extra shilling or two per week for the next twelve months. Besides, the suffering is not confined to the two parties in the dispute. The shopkeepers throughout Lancashire are impoverished by the turn-out of a few thousand cotton-spinners. The London mechanic has to pay, in the price of his coals, for a quarrel between the North Riding colliers and mine-owners. The millions of England and Scotland are, as it were, threads in the same piece of cloth; and a rent in one place may run across the whole fabric.

There is another cause of public disquietude. The cholera is once more amongst us. At Newcastle, it has killed more than a thousand people

in three weeks—in Gateshead, nearly three hundred. In Liverpool and London it has taken its solitary victims, as a premonition of the slaughter it may intend. The Privy Council has put in force the Act for the Removal of Nuisances and Prevention of Contagious Diseases; and the Board of Health is vigorous both in counsel and action. But why was the Act ever allowed to become powerless? and why is the Board so intermittent in its activity? Nothing can be plainer than the fact that filth and foul air are the congenial conditions of cholera and fever—except it be that other fact, that filth and foul air abound in all our cities, towns, and villages; and that, consequently, contagious diseases destroy annually tens of thousands who might otherwise live and be happy. Why, what is the condition, the notorious condition, of this beautiful village of Sydenham? A correspondent says, "The effluvia from the drains are continually encountered in our walks;" and we may be certain that the enemy we meet in the path enters unseen through the windows. Why this abominable state of things is not cured, let another correspondent, "A Sydenham Sufferer," explain. And, unfortunately, the story he tells is the story of sanitary reform throughout England. Not a populous place, not a salubrious site, but its mortality is aggravated, its salubrity mocked, by poisonous vapours, against which acts of parliament have been passed, but which sluggish functionaries or niggardly authorities permit to do their deadly work. We trust, however, there is no cause to apprehend a serious or prolonged visitation of cholera this year; yet urge our neighbours, and our readers everywhere, to trust to no one, while hoping for the best. If every man would cleanse his own door-way and flush his own house-drains, fever would soon die out, and cholera depart to return no more.

The British Association has held, during the past month, a highly-successful meeting in the important town of Hull. We have been favoured with a brief narrative of its proceedings, from the pen of one of its most eminent savans. Proud are the trophies of intellectual industry the Association has collected,—happy the auguries of human amelioration which it repeats from year to year!

PROGRESS OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE WORKS.

A PLEASING front view of the entire edifice can now be had from the grounds. The basement of the structure is at the top of a hill, 200 feet high; and when the sun is shining, the arched roofs, galleries, and corridors, sparkle to the delighted sight. The *coup d'œil*, even in its present incomplete state, proclaims the presence of the most refined and elegant artistic taste, improved and perfected by practical experience. Every device that ingenuity could suggest has been adopted, to give it in most, if not in every, point of view, uniqueness, novelty, beauty, grandeur, and an exquisite linear form. The architectural effect is, indeed, without a parallel, and adequately to describe it, a new nomenclature must be invented. Wander, too, where you will about the gardens,—on the margin of the lakes or in the beautiful walks,—from every opening which the copse, or the woods, or the foliage of the varied trees presents, some portion of this "People's Palace" meets your enchanted gaze.

Enter this wondrous building by one of the grand entrances immediately under the transept arches, approached by steep flights of steps constructed of solid granite; the centre and principal one of which is 100 feet in breadth, and the east and west ends 20 feet narrower. On either side, the steps are flanked with massive blocks of granite, surmounted with colossal stone sphinxes, 14 feet in length and 7 feet in height.

Having passed into the building, new and yet more imposing wonders attract attention. The vastness of the space, the comparatively insignificant circumference of the columns, the fairy-like appearance of the whole as the eye glances vertically, horizontally, or diagonally, render it impracticable, for a time, to note such details as the spiral staircases, the galleries and landings, the arched roofing, the

Louvre ventilators. The workmen, too, in the execution of their varied tasks, intricate and delicate, surpassing gymnastic performers in their extraordinary feats, add enlivenment and excitement to the scene. A vast collection of sculpture lies unpacked and strewn about in all directions, of every age and nation. Originals in stone and marble; casts of every description—ancient, mediæval, and modern. Here, the Apollo Belvidere, the Venus de Medicis, the Farnesian Hercules, the Laocoon, the Discobolus; all Greek statues—relics of an age of lively enthusiasm for the majestic and the beautiful—a period which has left all posterity mere students in the art of sculpture. There, works of the Roman era, in which there is less of beauty but more of portraiture—for it was the conquerors, the emperors, the orators, the Romans admired, and they cherished their memories by the preservation of their images. In the next age a relapse from high art takes place, and instead of the ideal perfection of the Greeks, or *vraisemblance* of the Romans, figures without proportion—ungainly to the sight, stiff, elaborate, formal, and grotesque, are the characteristics of the Byzantine period: witness the raising of Lazarus, which, doubtless, at that time excited feelings of commiseration and awe, but now is repugnant to the feelings, almost to contempt. Nevertheless, in many of the figures of that period may be discerned a touch of genius; and from them may be acquired by the student some knowledge of bygone days; for the varied costumes are given, even to the most minute details, with a fidelity to truth stamping them as the habiliments then worn, so that the exact draping of the hero was evidently that in which he was clothed when on earth, centuries past. We come next to the time when Michael Angelo chiselled works that even Phidias or Praxiteles might not have been ashamed to acknowledge. It is well known how deeply he was imbued with admiration of their productions; that even after he had lost his sight, he used to be taken to his favourite antique torso, that he might feel it. Many figures by him, both in a finished and an unfinished state, are in the western gallery. A large collection of modern productions, both by foreign and native artists, are also there. Casts of the colossal head of Bavaria, and the equestrian statue of Frederick the Great by Rauch. The equestrian figure of King Charles, too, which give to the portion of the building on which it stands the designation of "Charing Cross." Thorwaldsen, Canova, and other great European artists, with all our own native sculptors,—whose imaginings, though mentioned last in this description, are not least in whatever is truly valuable, talented, and praiseworthy—are also largely represented.

The various courts already afford much gratification to the visitors. Involuntarily, our memories recall what we have read of the discoveries in the ruins of Nineveh and Babylon by our indefatigable countryman, Layard, who has resuscitated the very form of nations well-nigh forgotten. One enormous figure is being constructed—a seated Colossus—which must be seen to be appreciated.

Leaving the building, we return to the grounds. The large reservoir at the Sydenham end is nearly excavated; both of the towers are advancing in height; and the garden is beginning to afford an inkling of what may ultimately be expected. The upper terrace, upon which we may fancy we are now standing, on a level with the base of the flight of steps, is very pleasing. It measures 2,000 feet in length, 50 feet in breadth, and 18 feet in height. It is ornamented with a handsome stone facing and balustrade. A few steps lead to the gardens, from which may be seen reservoirs, with very handsome stone niches, where dolphins, basins, and other devices are carved, from which trickles the silvery liquid into the sheet of water underneath. The following figures are already mounted upon their pedestals:—"Italy," by Monti; "Australia," by Bell; a Farnese Hercules; and two casts—one of Esculapius, and the other of Mercury. Broad

gravel walks are being formed between the parterres and lawns, leading to the lower terrace, which has a sloping bank of turf, looking brilliantly, and contrasting well with the varied embellishments of the upper. The basins, each 300 feet in circumference, together with the large basin, the periphery of which is 1,200 feet, and situated opposite the centre transept, below the lower terrace, have received the last touch. Indeed, every part of the ground is rapidly progressing towards completion. The engine-houses are being forwarded. The grounds for the reception of the rocks, ferns, palms, coniferous trees and plants, and mammalia of the antediluvian era, are beginning to assume the appearance intended. A rich store of animals, birds, and reptiles, in natural history is already accumulated. The ethnological department—which include subjects from our first parents, through all nations, ancient and modern, civilized and uncivilized, up to the Aztec Lilliputians—has the clothing, war-implements, &c.; and the figures are only waiting for the draping.

Thus far, then, has the World's Exhibition advanced towards completion, assuring us that there is every prospect of its opening on the 1st of May, 1854. Did Sir Joseph Paxton ever dream of such a magnificent result when he sketched his ideas of the Hyde-park structure on a simple piece of blotting-paper?

The park consists of about 289 acres of land, situated partly in the county of Kent, and partly in Surrey. The plan of the estate calls it "Penge, in the parish of Battersea." The original estates bought from Mr. Leo Schuster, Mrs. Laurie, and others, comprised 389 acres, but 100 acres were resold to Mr. Wise, of Reigate, for the sum of £100,000. The building stands on about 20 acres, consequently there is about 269 acres left for the Italian gardens, fountains, reservoirs, lakes, &c.

The ten large fountains, for which there is at present about 100 designs, sent in by Kiss, Owen Jones, Bell, Horeau, Thomas, Digby Wynn, and others, will play about twenty times during the season, and will eclipse the world-famous Versailles.

The great lake will occupy thirty acres, are a uniform depth of thirty inches. There is a gondola at present in the Palace, and the gondolier will, in appropriate costume, appear on the lake with his "tiny craft" next summer; in winter, it is proposed to use the lake for skating purposes. At one end of it, a clump of trees in a hillock was growing, and Sir Joseph Paxton, ever ready to avail himself of the natural advantages of the place in carrying out his grand designs, conceived the bold plan of creating a hillock at the other end of the lake by artificial means—in fact, to improvise one. A troop of "navvies" were employed to form this hillock with the clay and loam brought from the excavations of other parts of the grounds, and the trees removed from the ground, which now form the thirty-acre lake, were placed upon it, and there they may be now seen.

The Sydenham reservoir is about 150 feet square, and 20 feet deep, formed of red brick, with enormous buttresses on the side nearest to the public road. The creation of another reservoir in Dulwich Wood, communicating with the one already in progress, has been contemplated.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—The following distinguished personages paid a visit to the Crystal Palace on Thursday last.—His Grace the Duke of Wellington, Lord Exmouth, Lord Hawarden, Lady Surgen, Lady Elizabeth Dickens, Lady Ibbison, Major Tullock, Lieutenant Colonel Fordyce, — Newdegate, Esq., M.P., Countess Andriary, Captain Preston, Captain Wilton, A. G. Archibald, Esq., Cardinal Wiseman, Lady Frederick Beaulieu, Captain Tathwell, Salustiano Olivares, Esq., Captain Miller, Hon. A. Ponsonby, Rev. G. T. Bennett, Rev. C. Parker, Rev. T. Tate, Rev. G. W. Kershaw, Hon. E. Brownlowe, Mr. John Davies, M.D., Mr. and Mrs. H. Lodge, Dr. E. Oslander, Madame Visaline et ses filles, Miss Agnes Leech, Robert Longman, Esq., and Miss Steel, New York, U.S.

NEW CHURCH AT LEE, BLACKHEATH.—The parish of Lee, Kent, on the 3rd of September, presented a livelier appearance than the inhabitants ever before witnessed. The day being set apart for the celebration of the jubilee of the respected rector, the Rev. G. Lock, who on that day had completed the 50th year of his incumbency, at the advanced age of 84, and also for the laying by him the foundation-stone of a new church, to be called Christ Church, in Lee Park, a short distance from the Blackheath railway-station. The edifice will be in the early English style, with a spire 150 feet high. The design is by Mr. G. S. Scott.

Original Poetry.

OH! WHAT A WORLD IT MIGHT BE.

(Written for the *Illustrated Crystal Palace Gazette*, by Charles Swain, Esq.)

Oh! what a world it might be,
If hearts were always kind;
If Friendship, none would slight thee,
And Fortune prove less blind.

Love's own voice to guide us,
Unchangingly and fond—
With all we wish beside us,
And not a care beyond.

Oh! what a world it might be,
More blest than that of yore;
Come, learn, and 'twill require ye
To love each other more.

Oh! what a world of beauty
A loving heart might plan,
If man but did his duty,
And helped his brother man.

Then angel-guests would brighten
The threshold with their wings,
And love, divine, enlighten
The old forgotten springs.

Oh! what a world it might be,
If hearts were always kind;
If Friendship, none would slight thee,
And Fortune prove less blind.

TELEGRAPHIC PROGRESS.—Mr. Lindsay, of Dundee, has been lecturing at Glasgow on a project of his for carrying messages to any part of the globe without wires, by making the waters of the ocean their bearer. It seems he has succeeded in sending his messages short distances without submarine wires, but whether there is any limit to this plan is still untried. Mr. Lindsay reasons that, if so many feet of plates send a message so many yards, so many more feet would send it a proportionate distance beyond.

HUGH E. STRICKLAND, ESQ., F.R.S.—Seldom has anything caused a deeper sorrow than the unhappy fate of this most distinguished naturalist and ornithologist. Mr. Strickland had been at Hull, in company with Sir William Jardine, Bart, his respected father-in-law, of Jardine Hall, Dumfriesshire, when he was induced to go to the Clapham cutting, on the Manchester line. Whilst making notes concerning the strata, a coal train coming on the down line led him to step on the up line, upon which a passenger train was advancing unperceived through the tunnel, by which he lost his valuable life instantaneously, in a way too painful to describe. He was President of the Ashmolean Museum, and also performed Dr. Buckland's duties as reader in Geology at Oxford. Mr. Strickland was much esteemed for his unassuming manners, and highly respected by his contemporaries in scientific pursuits. Truly, "In the midst of life we are in death."

IRON BUILDINGS.—Messrs. E. I. Bellhouse and Co., of Manchester, are preparing an extensive iron Cattle house and public store for Furry, in Peru. It will be 70 feet square within the walls, and have balconies and verandahs projecting out 6½ feet from each face of the building. The main portion of the structure will be of two lofty stories, and there will be a platform 22½ feet square above the roof, from which will rise a circular tower, with a smaller tower above, surmounted by a cupola and flag-staff. The extreme height from the ground to the top of the flag-staff will be about 100 feet.—Messrs. Bellhouse have sent out to India the iron roof of a church, which is calculated to neutralize the intense heat of tropical climates.—At New York, a lodging-house is being prepared for the accommodation of 1,000 persons. Its exterior is being made of iron; the inner walls and partitions of brick. It will be thoroughly fire-proof in every part.

THE PLOUGH SUPERSEDED.—Mr. Mechi says he has received a machine from America which will "not only deeply, cheaply, and efficiently cultivate and pulverize the soil, but, at the same time, sow the seed, and leave all in a finished condition. It will, also, by a simple invention, cut and gather the corn, without any rake or other complication; while both in cultivation and harvesting its operation will be continuous, and without stoppage." He also says, "The implement, when complete, will weigh about 20 to 25 cwt., will require a pair of horses, and will be able to do twelve or more real horses. The implement for digging will require one man and one boy only, including the management of the steam-engine; in reaping, the same, with the addition of three men to bind, as the corn falls in their arms. The men will be carried on the machine."

An Australian house of wood is being erected at Hull, to cost between £3,000 and £4,000. The centre of the building consists of two spacious rooms—a dining and drawing-room, 22 feet by 16½; the right wing of two bed-rooms, 16 feet by 14; a dressing-room, 12 feet square; and a library, 16 feet square; and the left wing of a bed-room, 16 feet by 14; a dressing-room, 12 feet square; nursery, 16 feet by 12; and two bed-rooms in connexion with the nursery, 16 feet by 8, with pantries in the angles. The whole of the rooms are 11 feet in height. The wings are connected by a spacious corridor, 50 feet by 6, in the centre of which is a handsome illuminated clock. The building will be covered with zinc. The extent of ground it now covers is 88 feet by 60.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

SYDENHAM DRAINAGE.—In the *Times* newspaper, of the 7th of July last, appeared the following report of the Registrar-General:—

"On June 6, Park Cottages, New Cross-road, Deptford, on the 24th of June, the son of a Wesleyan minister, aged one year, died of poisonous effluvia, arising from defective drainage; diarrhoea the consequence (fourteen days)."

Sydenham and New Cross are contiguous, and the Sydenham drainage promises fatal consequences (unless remedied) to all residing in the neighbourhood. All communications on the subject will be attended to, and forwarded to the proper quarter, by

RICHARD JOHN COLE, 42, Farnival's-lane.

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN

CURE.—As CHOLERA makes its first invasion on the system by a vitiated action of the stomach and intestines, it is unusually evident that the most efficient safeguard against its attack is to keep those organs in healthy action. To effect which, years of the most extensive trial and flattering success have proved that nothing can be more efficient than **STIRLING'S STOMACH PILLS**. Their effects are directed immediately to those organs, and while by preserving the due performance of their functions, they afford this invaluable protection, they relieve many other distressing ailments, such as sick head-ache, pain and oppression after meals, habitual constiveness, flatulency, shortness of breath, stomach coughs, spasms, worms, and fits in children and grown persons, and all disorders incident to the cure of agues, rheumatism, and an excellent restorative after any excess or too free indulgence at table, as they gently cleanse the bowels, strengthen the stomach, sweeten the breath, clear the spirits, brace the nerves, induce a healthy action of the liver, improve digestion, and invigorate the whole system. FEMALES who value good health should never be without them, as they purify the blood, prevent scurvy, remove obstructions, pimples, sallowness, &c., and give the skin a beautiful clear, healthy appearance. PERSONS of a PLETHORIC HABIT, who are subject to head-ache, dizziness, faintness, or a sense of light-headedness, loss of memory, singing noise in the ears, which indicate too great a flow of blood to the head, should be particular to take them frequently. CHILDREN and PERSONS of ALL AGES may take them at any time, as they do not contain mercury or any ingredient that requires confinement or restriction of diet. MANY HEALTHY AGED INDIVIDUALS (several of them Members of the Royal College) who know their value, make it a rule to take them two or three times a-week, by which they remove the causes that produce disease, preserve their health, and keep off the infirmities of age, retaining, in a surprising degree, all the energy, vigour, vivacity, and cheerfulness of their youthful days. They should be kept in every family as a remedy in case of sudden illness, for, by their prompt administration, gout in the stomach, cramps, spasms, fevers, apoplexy, and other alarming complaints, which too often prove fatal, may be speedily cured or prevented.

Prepared only by J. W. STIRLING, chemist, 86, HIGH-STREET, WIDENHURST, and at POSEY'S, STRENGTH, and at other single dose can be had; or in boxes at 12d., 2s. 5d., 4s. 6d., and 11s. Each. They are also sold by all respectable medicinal vendors with the name "J. W. Stirling" engraved on the Government Stamp, without which they cannot be genuine.

ANGLO-AUSTRALIAN and

UNIVERSAL FAMILY LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, Loans and Guarantees; to Infants, Endowments, Property; with special application to Annuities, Emigrants, and Gold Miners.

Seventy-five per cent., and eventually 100 per cent. of the entire sum, divided on a new and most equitable principle among the members.

Incorporated under Act of Parliament 7 & 8 Vict. cap. 110. Capital Fund, £150,000, in 15,000 shares of £10 each.

First Call, £1 per share. The paid-up portion of the Capital, with its accumulations, to bear a dividend at the rate of not less than 5s. nor more than £10. per cent. per annum, with a Bonus of 25 per cent. of the Profits.

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The design in the establishment of this Company is to supply an extensive resource in the application and practice of Life Assurance, by the introduction of new and highly important facilities. The operations of the Company will embrace every improvement in its Constitution, will protect the Policy-holders from every species of liability, and will secure to each member a share in the profits of the business, which may be more or less to Societies and while the Members have the security and profitable use of an ANNUAL CAPITAL FUND, they possess a mutual interest in the prosperity and government of the Company, being entitled to SEVENTY-FIVE PER CENT. and eventually to ONE HUNDRED PER CENT. of the Excess Profits.

The leading objects of the Company are comprised under five Principal Departments; viz.—

1. LIFE ASSURANCE.
2. GENERAL ASSURANCE.
3. EMIGRATION ASSURANCE.
4. AUSTRALIAN ASSURANCE.
5. GOLD MINING ASSURANCE.

The popular and advantageous features of the Company will be more clearly seen by a perusal of their Prospects, which may be had at the Offices or by letter to the Secretary.

SODA WATER, Finest quality, 2s. 6d.

per Dozen, delivered to any part of Sydenham.—PRIOR, Chemist, Upper Sydenham, Agent for RICHARDSON'S ASPHALTIC CEMENT. Patented by the nobility, who pronounce it the most exquisite and reliable preparation for cleansing the head, and rendering the hair soft and glossy. One trial will ensure its continual use. Bottles 1s. 6d. and 2s. 6d.

SYDENHAM GAS & COKE COMPANY.

The Directors of the above Company wish respectfully to call the attention of the inhabitants of Sydenham, Forest Hill, and Norwood, to the great benefit which arises to Private Families and Inns, by the adoption of GAS FOR COOKING, in exquisite and reliable manner. The Cleanliness, Economy, and saving of labour in culinary operations by this mode only require to be known to be generally approved.

The application of Gas to these purposes, and heating of baths, is now becoming in some of the principal cities and towns in England and Scotland, of great moment; and it is to be supposed that a place like Sydenham should be somewhat in advance of the times for the adoption of what is really a modern improvement. A variety of simple and efficient apparatus are now obtainable in London, at cheap rates, from most of the respectable Gas-fitters; or information may be had on the subject on application at the Company's Office, Upper Sydenham, where terms for laying on and supplying the Gas may be known.

W. M. STEARNS,

Gas Works Office, Sydenham. Engineer and Manager.

N.B.—COKE and TAR always on sale at the works.

KENT MUTUAL ASSURANCE

SOCIETY, for Mutual Assurance of Lives, Endowments, and Annuities.

CHIEF OFFICES,

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BRANCH OFFICES,

5, Waterloo-place, Pall Mall.

149, Sloane-street, Chelsea.

19, Aldison-place, Hyde Park-square.

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Protected by an ample Guarantee Capital, in addition to the Annual Income and Accumulated Premiums. Annual Revenue, nearly £7,500 a year.

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PROTECTED BY A GUARANTEE FUND OF £70,000.

Whole Profits divisible among the Members, every three years—

As an Example, it may be stated that, in the general case, for a yearly Premium of 2s., and the payment of 3s. of Government Debt, Household Goods, Tools, &c., can be insured to the extent of £100, and no working man can prudently neglecting such a precaution, when it is attainable at so trifling a sacrifice as 6s. yearly.

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George Cumming, Esq.

AGENT FOR SYDENHAM.

Mr. C. J. Blake, 4, Ann's-place.

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH OF THE

KENT MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY,

Enrolled and incorporated by Acts of Parliament.

HEAD OFFICES,

6, Old Jewry, Cheapside, London.

BRANCH OFFICES,

5, Waterloo-place, Pall Mall;

149, Sloane-street, Chelsea;

19, Aldison-place, Hyde Park-square;

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With numerous Agencies throughout the United Kingdom.

DEULAH SPA HOTEL, adjoining the

Royal Deulah Spa Gardens, Norwood.—The above Hotel has been recently refurbished with every view to elegance and domestic comfort, affording a great rural and picturesque retreat for Invalids and Families seeking health or recreation.

Arrangements have been made to give the visitors the privilege of using the Gardens and drinking the celebrated waters of the Spa.

Large and small parties accommodated in the first style at the most moderate charges.

Dinners, &c., always ready.

A Cook and Confectioner on the premises, and family orders despatched on the shortest notice.

Wines, &c., of the best quality, at the usual prices.

The Hotel accommodation for Dinner, Tea, and Picnic Parties, embraces elegant rooms and rustic arbours, out-door tents, booths, &c.

Stabling, &c.

Omni-buses to and from London every hour from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

N.B.—All communications to be addressed to

Mrs. ROBINSON,

Deulah Spa Hotel, Norwood.

THE BRITISH INDUSTRY LIFE

ASSURANCE COMPANY, and FAMILY FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

Capital, £100,000, with power to increase to £200,000.

Empowered by Act of Parliament, 7 & 8 Vict. c. 110, 13 and 14, Vol. C. 115.

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INDUSTRIAL PROVIDENT BRANCH.

This Department has been formed for the purpose of affording the industrial classes an opportunity of obtaining as much of the advantages of Life Assurance as their means will permit, by weekly payments of one penny to twelve pence and upwards, and which success which has attended this Company is altogether unexampled in the history of Life Assurance Companies, as the following statement of business duly attested by the auditors clearly shows.

Numbers of Policies issued from the 17th day of June, 1852, to August 31st 1853, £202,400; Amount assured, £273,000; Annual Income, £23,156; with a weekly increase of £1,500 to £2,000.

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Profitable and Safe Investments. Six per cent. guaranteed with Profits.

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BUILDING SOCIETY AND INVESTMENT FUND.

Chief Office.—Lecture Hall, Greenwich.

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This Society affords more than ordinary facilities for the purchase of Freehold or Leasehold Property. Money in large and small sums may be had *immediately* without recourse to the ballot or the bidding system.

Six per cent. guaranteed to all the shareholders. £100 borrowed of this Society may be repaid in fourteen years by an annual repayment of £10 11s. 2d., or in ten years by an annual repayment of £13 11s. 5d.; or in five years, by an annual repayment of £23 14s. 2d.; after which the Society has no further claim upon the members. For intermediate periods see prospectus and tables.

An investing member making a monthly payment of 4s. for fourteen years, 6s. 4d. for ten years, or 10s. for seven years, will receive the amount of one share of £25, being 10 per cent. upon the subscriptions. This amount, however, will be considerably increased by the annual apportionment of the profits.

Shares can be taken up at any time, and at a price of 15s. per share. No back payments to make. Members can withdraw after three months of membership, and receive interest on their subscriptions which may be on Tuesday, the 31st of October.

Members and others residing at Sydenham and in its vicinity are informed that the Secretary attends at Mr. BLAKE'S, 4, Ann's-place, Upper Sydenham, on the FIRST THURSDAY in each month, from 7 till 11 in the evening, when subscriptions may be paid and new shares taken up. The next meeting for the receipt of subscriptions will be on Tuesday, the 31st of October.

PROGRESS OF THE SOCIETY IN THIRTEEN MONTHS.

Shares registered.....800

Money advanced to members.....£4,766 6s.

Prospectuses may be had at 4, Ann's-place, Sydenham. Communications to be addressed to P. BLAKE, Secretary, Lecture Hall, Greenwich.



PANAMA RAILWAY.

"We hail with satisfaction the establishment of the Australian Direct Steam Navigation Company, *via* Panama, incorporated by Royal Charter, dated 24th June, 1853, whereby the liability of individual shareholders is limited to the several amounts of their shares; capital £1,000,000, in 40,000 shares of £25 each, with power to increase the same; deposit, £2 per share." The route proposed is the direct line connecting England with Australia, and crossing the Isthmus of Panama. It may be described as divided into three stages—the Atlantic passage from Milford Haven to Navy Bay, the transit across the Isthmus—and the Pacific passage from Panama to Sydney and Melbourne, alternately coaling at Otaheite or other convenient stations.

By the adoption of the Panama route, New Zealand and the whole of the Australian colonies will be brought into direct communication not only with the mother-country and Europe, but also with the United States, Central and South America, California, and the South Sea Islands, and eventually with India and China. The distance from Milford Haven to Navy Bay is 4,552 nautical miles, and the passage across the Isthmus, by rail, to Panama 46 miles, which, with 4,448 miles to Otaheite, and 3,351 to Sydney, will give a gross total from England to Australia of 12,437 nautical miles; the distance the Company fully expect to be able to accomplish in 56 days, which will entitle them to claim the bonus of £6,000 a year, offered by the Legislative Council of New South Wales to the first company which shall bring Sydney within a course of post of 120 days with London, and in all probability secure the Government contract for the mails, while the saving of the interest on the gold that will be certain to be sent by the shortest and safest route will almost alone insure the success of such a company.

We congratulate the Company in having selected such practical and intelligent men for the management of the nautical department as Captain John Cockrane, Hoseason, and Captain A. S. Hamond, who, as far back as 1850, pointed out, in a letter to the *Times*, the advantages of this route which are so manifest that it becomes a matter of surprise that it has not been adopted long since. The establishment of the railway across the Isthmus of Panama has now removed every obstacle in the way of this great undertaking, and we are glad to see by the report of the directors that they pledge themselves to use every effort to complete the few remaining miles. The time of transit will not exceed two hours. And we observe with satisfaction that it is proposed to employ paddle-wheel steamers of about 3,000 tons, both on the Atlantic and the Pacific passages; and that passengers, having secured their berths at Milford Haven, may be sure of duplicate berths from Panama—the vessels being uniform in reference to machinery, proportion, and cabin accommodation. This is an important feature in the project of this steam company; for passengers embarking either in England or Australia will have the same amount of accommodation throughout.

By means of the paddle-wheelers fitted in the paddle-boxes of these boats, the Company expect to be able to obtain six tons of fresh water a-day, which will very materially increase the comfort and convenience of the passengers.

After the signal failure of all our screw steamers for lengthened voyages, we have congratulated our readers on the adoption of the paddle-wheel mode of propulsion by this company; and the speedy arrival from New York at Liverpool of the "Golden Age," American paddle-wheel steamer, of 3,000 tons burthen and 1,000 horse power, which is about identical with the vessels proposed by the Australian Direct Steam Navigation Company, will enable the English public to form their judgment upon the matter.

The Americans, who have made enormous profits by steam communication with California by their companies established on both sides of the Isthmus of Panama, are now despatching steam vessels to Australia to teach the mother country how to open an efficient steam communication with her most valuable colonies. The Americans are far too practical a nation to adopt a false mode of steam propulsion, or to make an error in the choice of the route. The following is a short abstract of the advertisement of this vessel:—

Her dimensions are—300 feet long, 43 feet beam, and 32 feet

hold. Her accommodations for first, second, and third class passengers, are believed to be superior to any steamer ever built. Her model is unequalled; and it is confidently expected that she will make the trip from Liverpool to Australia in fifty days.

The Company, after mature consideration, have decided upon Milford Haven as the port of departure, from the great advantages it offers of the safest anchorage, entrance, and exit at all times, facilities of repair, supply of coal, and easy communication with London, Liverpool, Manchester, and the North—advantages which scarcely any other port in England can boast of in an equal degree, and which must eventually command for Milford Haven a position as a port second to none in the kingdom. We purpose in our next number to engrave a view of Milford Haven, and to draw more particular attention to this subject; regretting that our space, at present, will not allow us to do more than wish every success to this noble undertaking, which, among its other advantages, will enable the emigrant to feel himself more closely connected with his home, from the certainty with which he will be able to calculate the time of transit. We have engraved a view of the entrance to the Chagres.

On Monday, the directors of the Windsor Royal Society (of which Prince Albert is the president) opened a lodging-house for unmarried workmen and labourers. There is sleeping accommodation for fifty single men. The lodgers are to be admitted by the week, reckoning from Monday morning, on payment at the rate of 2s. per week, in advance; or, in case of admission after Monday, until the following Monday, when the occupation is to become weekly. Side by side with this new and commodious lodging-house is another house of similar dimensions, licensed under the Public Health Act, and open for the reception of tramps.

On Friday afternoon one of the cottages occupied by the masons engaged at the new palace at Balmoral was discovered to be on fire. In a short time a number of men were on the spot, the Royal family being not only present, but actively engaged in efforts to extinguish the flames.

We are assured by a spectator (says the *Aberdeen Herald*) that when a line of men was formed to convey water to the burning pile from the river, Prince Albert at once took a position, and continued working steadily throughout, shoulder to shoulder with a sturdy Highlandman. The Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred were also actively engaged, while her Majesty stood by the whole time, and gave such directions as she thought would tend to assuage the fire, seemingly deeply interested by the efforts of the men to save their clothes' chests, in which many of them had considerable sums of money.

The fire is supposed to have originated by a spark getting among some brushwood in one of the cottages where a woman was baking, and as they were all five composed of timber, the flames were speedily beyond the power of control. No damage has been done to the new buildings.

The good results of the Leeds Recreation Society, presided over by Sir C. Goodman, are familiar to our readers, and have, we hope, stimulated other towns in providing healthy relaxation for the people. The following extract from their last report shows the success of this movement:—

During the season twenty-five concerts have been given to crowded and delighted audiences, and, after paying all expenses, a small balance is left in the treasury. It is the intention of the committee to proceed with vigour during the ensuing season, engagements having been made with eminent vocalists; the kind feeling of the profession to this movement enabling the committee to engage first-rate talent. Of the sympathy and support of the public to a society so philanthropic in its aim, and already so successful, the committee are assured its beneficial effects are already apparent, and many cases of moral improvement have ensued since the commencement of these concerts. The committee are wishful to second the efforts of the Early Closing Association, by giving concerts to suit that class as often as possible; and in the arrangements made they have not been forgotten. The committee wish to inform the public that the other objects contemplated by this society were a gymnasium and reading-rooms in various parts of the town. It is for the public to determine whether some part of this scheme is not called for at the present time to afford the means of improvement to a highly respectable class of the community.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE AND THE OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH.—

One of many similar meetings was lately held at the Philosophical Hall, Huddersfield, for the purpose of considering the propriety of petitioning Parliament to remove all legal obstruction to the opening of the Crystal Palace on Sunday. The Hall was filled, and on the platform was a large number of the clergy and respectable inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood. The object of the meeting was the repeal of an obsolete act which rendered it illegal to open the Crystal Palace on a Sunday. It ran as follows:—"Whereas certain houses, rooms, or places, within the city of London or Westminster, or in the neighbourhood thereof, have of late frequently been opened for public entertainment or amusement upon the evening of the Lord's day, commonly called Sunday, and as in other houses, rooms, or places, within the said cities, or in the neighbourhood thereof, under pretence of inquiring into religious doctrines, and explaining texts of Holy Scriptures, debates have frequently been held on the evening of the Lord's day concerning divers texts of Holy Scriptures by persons unlearned or incompetent to explain the same, to the corruption of good morals, and to the encouragement of irreligion and profaneness. Be it therefore enacted, from and after the passing of this act, that any house, room, or place, which may be so opened for public entertainment or amusement, or for publicly debating upon any part of the Lord's day called Sunday, and to which persons may be admitted by the payment of money, or by tickets sold for money, shall be deemed a disorderly house or place, and the keeper thereof shall forfeit the sum of £200 for every such day he shall so keep open." It was to petition for the repeal of that clause of the enactment that they had been called together. The Chairman then spoke of the benefits that would be derived by the opening of the "People's Palace" on Sundays, but was interrupted by Mr. Colin Brown amidst loud cries of "order," "chair," and "sit down." After some discussion Mr. Hanson vacated the chair in favour of Mr. Thomas Firth, jun., who was greeted with loud cheers from all parts of the hall. He said he was not sorry they had put him into it. He should merely put the state of the case before the meeting at a suitable time. Mr. Edward Layton then addressed the meeting in favour of opening the Crystal Palace on Sundays. Mr. Josiah Rhodes seconded the resolution. He did it upon the general principle of liberty, and for the sake not only of the people of London and its suburbs, but for the sake of humanity at large. An amendment was proposed by Mr. C. Brown:—"That Sunday is one of the greatest blessings which all classes, and especially the working classes, possess, and ought not to be infringed upon any pretence whatever." Mr. Hanson observed, "I could second that with the greatest pleasure;" and Mr. J. Rhodes said, "I could vote for that myself. The Rev. J. Battersby seconded the amendment in a learned and lengthy speech, quoting Homer, the Scriptures, Eusebius, Ignatius, Barnabas, and several other of the Fathers. Mr. Hanson advocated the opening of the Palace on Sundays, by references to Paley, John Milton, and Gungstenberg, that the stated thought to that in which he had indulged [hear, hear]. He objected to their being branded with the name of infidels and atheists because they contended for the opening of the Crystal Palace on social grounds, not wishing to impede the progress of Christianity. Several other speakers addressed the meeting. After which the Chairman put the amendment, which had a large number of supporters; but the original motion was carried by a decided majority, amidst loud cheering. A vote of thanks having been tendered to the Chairman, the proceedings terminated about 11 o'clock.

Printed by SAMUEL COCKSHAW, at No. 6, Horse-shoe-court, Ludgate-hill. Published by CHARLES JAMES BLAKE, at No. 4, Abchurch-lane, Upper Styelham. London Agents, JOHN WESLEY and Co., Booksellers, 54, PATERNOSTER-TOWNE—October, 1853.